Egyptian, Iragi leaders hold talks

CAIRO (R) - Egyptian President Hosni Muharak and Iraqi President Suddam Hassein held talks in Cairo Sunday in their first meeting since a dispute over expatriate workers strained ties in ovember. "We have discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and we are also going to discuss all the changes happening in the world," Muharak told reporters. He appeared to be referring to changes in Eastern Europe, which Middle East countries fear could deflect world political attention and investment away from them. Muharak has urged Arab countries to unite to find a common approach towards the changes in Eastern Europe. Hustein, on a Surprise visit, was last in Egypt in June for a meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), an economic bloc linking Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen.

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7 more to speak when discussions resume Saturday

Deputies debate draft budget in marathon session

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN - The draft budget for 1990 gathered support in the Lower House of Parliament Sunday after most depoties indicated support for the recommendations and suggested amendments ex-Security Department (PSD) and universities as forwarded to the full House by its Planter Com-

After a marathon actions which ended at Sanday midnight, the House decided to resume debate on the budget Saturday.

The extended session was warranted by Monday's schoduled meeting of the Jordanian Syrian Higher Committee which will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Syrian counterpart Mahmond Zou'bi. Badran and Finance Minister Basel Jardanch were expected to reply to the deputies' comments and observations before the budget was voted on.

At least 25 deputies of the 38 who spoke Satarday and by mid-evening Sanday indicated their endorsement of the JD 1.015 billion draft budget, which the House's Financial Committee has recommended be triumed down by ID 15 million. Most Partiament watchers expected the budget to be passed by the House with an everwhelming majority when it is put to vote in Saturday.

Several deputies strongly criti-cised the Kingdom's economic restracturing programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (DAF) and complained that details of the agreement were not released to them earlier but most appeared headed towards endors-

ing them.
The Kingdom's dobt rescheduling agreements with the creditors se under criticism but tew deputies rejected the accords out-

Concerns were expressed over rising anemployment and cost of living and deputies called on the pion to projects in the industrial sector which could also create employment opportunities.

Almost every deputy who spoke Sunday called for building the military strength of the country in various ways. Parliament observers noted that the issue had assumed higher significance in the wake of several recent incidents along the demarcation line with larsel, some of them believed to be Israeli-fabricated.

Some deputies dealt with the issue of national security in detail. Suggestions ranged from arming "every house with small arms," since Jordan cannot afford expensive heavier equipment to protect itself against external aggression, to setting up arms production industries in the

Most of the deputies opposed the Financial Committee's proposal to reduce allocation to the PSD. They pointed out that the department had a key role in

ensuring security and stability and this task could be not per-formed properly if it did not have proper funds to finance its opera-

There was a consensus among the deputies that the education sector be spared of all reductions and cuts in finance. They emphasised the need for a country like Jordan to offer the best of education to its people. Most deputies outrightly rejected a proposal by the Finance Committee to reduce allocations for universities.

The need to ensure food security for the country through increased self-reliance for its food needs through agriculture was underlined by several deputies who called for increased invest-

ments in agriculture. Deputies criticised allocations made in the draft budget for Jordanian embassies abroad. Suggestions were also made that Jordan seek to merge its embassies in relatively unimportant countries with the diplomatic mis-



sions of other Arab countries as a common bloc.

Several Muslim Brotherhood deputies said Jordan's economic problems could only be solved if the national economy was shifted to a structure based on Islamic principles, but there was little demand from the floor for a ban

on interests as called for in Islam. Three leftist deputies called for national conference on economy with the participation of all sectors of the society. The conference, said Deputy Fakhri Kawar, can delve deep into the fundamental problems of the eco-

nomy and come up with compre-

hensive solutions with the direct participation of the citizens.

There was also calls for a change in strategy of food subsidies to ensure that the really needy derive maximum benefit from them. Deputies said the present form of across-the-board subsidies benefit the rich more

than it does the poor and said a system should be devised to ensure that only the needy receive the benefit.

See inside pages for excerpts from deputies' speeches

Palestinians strike to protest Abu Dis killings

(Agencies) — Shops closed in Arab Jerusaism Soughty to pro-Arab Jerusaism Sanday to pro-test at the killing of a Bajestinian teenager and his page by laraeli

border police.

Abdailah Nabil Halabich, 16, was shot dead during a chash between police and masked Palestinians Saturday. Palestinians said his uncle, Mohammad Daood Haisbieh, 45: was shot

trying to recover the body. The one-day strike closed businesses throughout Arab Jerusalem. Army curfews were imposed on Abu Dis, the nearby village where the two dead Palestinians had lived, and two other villages in the occupied

West Bank. In the occupied Gaza Strip, an Arab teacher was attacked and killed by youths wielding knives and axes. Palestinian sources said Ismail Ahu Yusef was a suspected collaborator.

Two young Palestinians, aged 11 and 14, were injured during clashes in Mughazi camp, Palestinians reported.

In the north of Israel, police and volunteers aided by a helicopter searched for a missing Israeli soldier last seen four days ago boarding a bus. The Druze soldier, aged 21, failed to arrive ligied in a clean petween pounds. para-military border police, which Palestinians say they fear more than the army, patrols Arab lerusalem and nearby Azab vil-

Abu Dis, on the eastern edge of Jerusalem, has been the scene of numerous stone-throwing incidents during the 25-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Harveini urges action

Faisal Al Husseini, the leading Palestinian nationalist in the occupied territories, has called on Arabs to press for a halt to the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

We should exercise pressure on the nations of the world to stop this," he said in an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat sed Sunday.

"What we can do is to ask other countries to open the door for migrating Jews and press for settling them down somewhere else other than the West Bank and Gaza," he added.

Husseini, held for three days by israeli police last week on suspicion he was helping finance the oprising, appealed to the United States and Western Europe to Soviet Jaws.
Az exposted 50,000 to 100,000

Spriet leve were expected to arrive in Israel this year, leading to a go-slow by Israell immigration officials Sunday to demand more staff. The Palestine Liberation Orga-

misation's (PLO) 15-member Executive Committee is due to meet Soviet Jewish emigration

Denying charges he was belping fund the uprising, Husseini told Al Sherq Al Awsat his 30hour questioning by police was aimed at discrediting him in the eyes of Israeli supporters of

Husseini has been jailed without trial for 18 months in the past three years for suspected "security" offences.

Drawing a distinction between Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and emigra-tion of Jews to Israel, he said: "We should work deverly and concentrate on stopping emigra-tion to the West Bank itself." Most Jews coming to Israel

usually leave after a while, he They come for tourism more than settling down. The situation in Israel does not en-

Arafat appeals to Moscow

CAIRO (Agencies) - Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) appealed to the Soviet Union not to allow airlifting Soviet Jews to

The appeal came in a speech Arafat delivered Saturday night at a seminar organised by the Egyptian Committee for Support of the lotifada. A brief summary of the speech

was published Sunday in the afternooner Al Messa and was confirmed by Osama Sharab, the PLO spokesman in Cairo who described it as "an appeal to the Soviet friend.

Arafat said he was not against the right of immigration of Soviet Jews to any place in the world but he objected to settling them in the occupied territories.

He said flying Soviet Jews

directly from Moscow to Tel Aviv forces them to settle in the land of Palestine, the home of their Palestinian Arab friends who are being driven out of it."
Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said in a statement he later retracted, that the Jewish state needs the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to settle some of the estimated 300,000 Soviet Jews expected to immigrate in the next few years. The

statement drew criticism from the United States, Egypt, the PLO

and others. Arafat meanwhile warned Arab countries that Israel would not suffice itself with the occupied territories but might also need some of their lands to settle Jews coming in large numbers from the Soviet Union in it.

Citing information published in some Israeli newspapers, Arafat said the United States had offered Israel \$600 million to settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza.

Arafat met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak early Sunday. There were no reports that the three leaders would meet

There were no comments from Arafat or Mubarak after their meeting. In Tunis, U.S. Ambassador

Robert Pelletreau and a senior aide to Arafat have held another meeting aimed at opening an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported Saturday.

Such talks in Cairo have been proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as a prejude to Shamir's plan to hold elections among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

WAFA did not release details of the Friday meeting other than to say Pelletreau met with the PLO's Hakim Balawi to discuss the means and possibilities of opening an Israeli-Palestinian di-

Shamir vowed Saturday to

(Continued on page 3)

Soviet envoy asks focus be shifted onto U.S. to block Jewish immigration to Israel According to Zinchuk, only theirs," said Zinchuk.

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Soviet Union believes that Arab and international efforts should focus on the United States and Israel to block the Jewish state's plans to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the outgoing Soviet ambassador to

"We are in a difficult position over the issue of immigration to Israel," said Alexander Zinchuk, who leaves Jordan this week after a five-year tenure in the Kingdom. "Practically, there is very little we can do to control the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, particularly that the United States has imposed a quota on the number of Soviet Jews it would take as immigrants," he told the Jordan

Times Sunday. The ambassador noted that the United States had been an ardent vocal advocate of increased freedoms for Soviet Jews to leave their homeland but imposed restrictions in their emigration to the U.S. as soon as Moscow relaxed regulations. "When we opened the door

dor, the American move to set a limit of 18,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants every year has contributed heavily to the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel. "Most of them are not leaving the Soviet Union on religious grounds,"

According to the ambassa-

he said. "They are mostly looking for better economic conditions and for most of them the first choice is the United States and then Western Europe and other countries. But now that the flow to the U.S. is curtailed, they are compelled to turn to At the same time, Moscow

has few options to control the situation, he said. "The emigration and free travel are all part of our liberalisation policy and we simply cannot impose any restrictions on Soviet Jews alone while allowing others to leave the country," he pointed

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir contended last week that Israel needed to retain the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to make room for Soviet Jewish immigrants. Between 300,000 and 500,000 Soviet Jews are expected to arrive in Israel this year.

10 per cent of all Soviet Jews who left their country in the past 20 years opted to settle in Israel. "But it is no longer the situation after the U.S. imposed the limitation," he said.

"There should be some way, perhaps through the United Nations, to ensure that Israel does not settle Soviet Jews in the occupied land," he said. "We are more than willing to contribute positively to the effort," he added, emphasising that Moscow remains firm on its position that the occupied territories belong to the Palesti-nian people and Israel has no right whatsoever to "settle anyone there.

Simultaneous with international moves to counter Israel's plans, he said, efforts should also be exerted with the United States to increase its quota for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The envoy confirmed that contacts were under way between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Soviet government over the We are exchanging issue. views, and we hope that they (the PLO) understand our position," he said. However, he stressed, "Soviet-Palestinian relations have not been negatively affected by the problem." Moscow is also in touch with other Arab governments to explain its stand, he said.

The ambassador said there was no new Soviet initiative to advance peace efforts in the Middle East and reiterated Moscow's call for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We are also dy to contrib liminary meeting to narrow the differences among the involved parties ahead of the conference," he said.

In reply to a question, he said Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres could be seeking a higher-level official invitation to the Soviet Union after inde finitely postponing a scheduled visit to Moscow in December. "The invitation (for the December visit) came from the Soviet Peace Committee." Zinchuk said. "Perhaps he wants a higher level invitation - as the deputy prime minister of Israel," he added, he did not say whether such an invitation could be forthcoming from Moscow, but, in previous interviews, he has ruled out the

Army tightens grip on Baku amid calls for pullout

MOSCOW (Agencies) - The Soviet army tightened its hold on the southern Republic of Azerbaijan Sunday amid calls from ethnic Russians to bring "our boys" home to safety.

The Azerbaijani Interior Ministry reported the capital Baku was under almost complete control by the armed forces, with only sporadic gunfire from small groups of militants.

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The military also took over several other towns, including Lenkoran, where the Soviet nower had been pushed aside by the powerful Azerbaijani Popular Front mass movement.

Many Popular Front leaders were in hiding in and around Baku and others were under detention by security forces.

Meanwhile Armenian and Azerbaijani fighters began withdrawing from a tense border area, an Armenian activist from Yerevan said.

Radio Moscow said Sunday that life in Bakn was returning to normal after two weeks of fighting in the decades-old religious and territorial fend between the

A day before, Soviet soldiers made scores of arrests trying to neutralise the Azerbaijan front that authorities said was bent on taking over the republic.

Armenian activist Rafael Popoyan said in a telephone in-terview from the Armenian capital of Yerevan that the fighters' withdrawal had started calmly, according to metial reports he received from the mountainous border region between Armenia

Negotiators meeting on the border of Armenia and Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijan enclave within Armenia, agreed to buil back all anned men by 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) Souday. Their action will leave security to Soviet troops, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported Saturday. There was no way to independentily confirm the withdrawal. Foreign journalists have been banned from the area since Jan. 13, when anti-Armenians rioting

began in Bakn. Public transport was returning to normal in Baku but residents reached by telephone said waits of two or three hours for city buses were common. Many factories and shops across the gepublie remained closed in protest.

Yusif Samedogin, a wellknown author and front official, said about 200 members of the mass movement had been arrested, part of an operation that Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin earlier described as an

assault on "extremist forces." "The strikes continue and many people are awaiting a political solution," another front member said. But the military's hold on Baku

and the wave of arrests have posed the Kremlin a dilemma -with the Communist Party largely discredited among local residents, only the Popular Front is well placed to negotiate a political settlement.

There is also insistent pressure on the Kremlin to withdraw the troops, largely made up at first of Slavic reservists.

On Saturday, the armed forces reform movement Shield held a rally in central Mescow to denotince the use of Soviet troops

The ultra-nationalist Russian group "Pamyat" also held a rally to demand the pull-out of "our boys" from the front lines in what many here see as a remote

Similar protests have been held in Rostov, Stavropol and other parts of the western Soviet Union since a call-up of Russian and other Slave for duty in Transcancasia 10 days ago.

prominence to the protests, with the new Rabochaya Tribuna demanding in a frontpage headline, Who gave the order?"

Soviet newspapers gave fresh

(for emigration), they closed No serious threat for Gorbachev — Shevardnadze

Minister Eduard Shevardnadze says that concern in the West about Mikhail Gorbachev's political survival stems more from a desire that his reforms succeed than from any real threat to the Soviet leader.

"I believe that this particular preoccupation stems from sincere feelings, from sincere support for the process of perestroika that is under way in the Soviet Union,' Shevardnadze told the Associated Press in a rare one-on-one interview. "He was the one who spearheaded this arduous but holy struggle."

The soft-spoken white-haired Soviet official, a Georgian, acknowledged "there is some segment of the population that is definitely disappointed" by Gorbachev's reform efforts.

But he claimed, "Gorbachev and the political leadership of this country on the whole do enjoy the support of the bulk of the Soviet people, in spite of the fact that we are experiencing great difficulties: we have empty shelves in stores; we have a host of other social, economic and inter-ethnic difficulties."

Shevardnadze, a member of the ruling politburo and close ally of Gorbachev, said Gorbachev's

opponents "do not really constitute a significant force.

Discussing Soviet economic problems in a set of separate written responses, Shevardnadze said, "For all the difficulties of economic conditions in our country, the situation is not such that we need 'the last straw'," a Russian expression akin to grasping at straws.

We have vast reserves," he said in the responses, provided to the AP in English. "And the purpose of perestroika is to mobilise those reserves."

Communist Party sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say the party is becoming more polarised, with hardliners expected to mount a challenge to Gorbachev's leadership when the national body's central committee meets in Moscow Feb. 5.

A progressive faction also has formed, and sources say it may stage an attack at the same meeting on the party's constitutional monopoly on power and demand a virtual apology for decades of totalitarian Communist rule.

The strength of either group is difficult to measure. But the problems for Gorbachev, who portrays himself as a centrist.

(Continued on page 3)

Shelling in Beirut; militia truce in south

other with tank fire across Beirut's dividing green line Sunday as a new ceasefire was reported between rival Shi'ite Muslim militias in South Lebanon. The sound of exploding shells

mixed with thunder claps of a storm when the fighting broke out overtnight in the central sector of the five-kilometre line dividing the Lebanese capital. Police said no casualties were

reported from the three-hour flare-up that violated a ceasefire brokered by the Arab League in September to halt the latest clashes in Lebanon's 14-year-old cîvil war.

At least four people were killed and 12 wounded by police count in similar violations along the green line in the first two weeks of 1990.

The Sept. 22 truce halted six months of murderous shelling duels between troops of maverick general Michael Aoun and the Syrian army in which police said 929 people were killed and 2,744

wounded. The new hostilities came as President Elias Hrawi's government was readying a security plan to ban militias and combat terrorism in west Beirut to encourage foreign diplomats to return to the city's western sector.

An Algerian-mediated ceasefire aimed at ending five weeks of fighting between the Syrian-back- and-off for nearly three years.

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army ed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hiz-units and militias pounded each bollah (Party of God) militias bollah (Party of God) militias appeared to be holding in South

Lebanon, security sources quoted

by Reuters said.

Security sources said the Shi'ite groups exchanged only sporadic sniper fire but maintained a state of alert across the Iglim Al Tufah area, 40 kilometres south of

At least 82 people have been killed and 300 wounded in the battles which erupted Dec. 23. Amal said it was observing the ceasefire "as a result of the swift efforts by Algerian envoy Mohammad Taher to halt the

A Hizboliah statement welcomed the Algerian initiative, saying: "We are ready to do whatever is required to end the

conflict.' Algerian embassy officials in Beirut refused to give details on

the ceasefire agreement. Political sources said Taher had met officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which deployed 600 guerrillas along part of the frontline in Iqlim Al Tufah.

Hizbollah, defused the ferocity of the battles but failed to quell

The fundamentalist Hizbollah and the more secular Amal, vying for leadership of the country's Shi'ites, have been fighting on-

The move, bitterly criticised by

Diplomats see gloomy Mideast peace prospects

By Jack Redden

TEL AVIV --- Western diplomats, saying an increasingly confident Israel is hardening its stance, are deeply pessimistic about prospects for Israeli-

Palestinian peace.

They believe the sudden influx of thousands of Soviet Jews has convinced many Israelis there is no urgent need for talks.

"I think it's a window of opportunity that is remaining closed." said one.

Diplomats from several countries repeatedly used the word "gloomy" to describe the chances of overcoming obsta-cles to the first talks between Israel and Palestinians.

They said they understood Israeli "security" concerns but accused Prime Minister Yithzak Shamir and his right-wing Likud Party of imposing impossible conditions.

"It's a kind of euthanasia, a sweet death by strangulation of the process," one diplomat

told Reuters. Ten months after Shamir first prosposed Palestinian elections in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, there has been minimal progress on arranging even preliminary meetings to discuss how to hold a poll.

The United States has proposed a meeting in Washington to lay the groundwork for a subsequent meeting in Cairo that would arrange the elec-

However, there are still Israeli-U.S. differnces over that first meeting and Shamir has been uncompromising. This month he restated claims to the occupied territories and demanded tight restrictions on who could represent Palestinians at talks.

Shamir's statements can be explained by his need to placate critics in his party before it meets Feb. 7. But foreign observers have detected a more fundamental toughening of Israel's positions.

"During the last three or four months the stance has been hardened," said one diplomat, attributing it to resurgent self-

Hostages

changed completely, not the

The change is attributed partly to increased security and the army's greater ability to keep the 25-month-old Palestinian uprising under control.

But the most important factor has been the flood of Soviet Jews into Israel, exceeding even the most optimistic government predictions of just a few months ago.

The rate has reached about 5.000 a month and hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews have stated the emigration process, alarming Palestinians and other Arabs. The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) executive committee is due to meet in Tunis Monday to discuss the influx.

Israelis who feared the combined Arab population of Israel and the occupied territories would outnumber Jews early in the next century now believe Soviet emigration will

eliminate the problem. Rather than surrendering the Gaza Strip and West Bank because of the demographic threat, Shamir now sees it as the land needed for the expanding Jewish population. Diplomats now believe

peace efforts are stalemated. Palestinians have no alternative but to continue and hope for progress. But they have failed to convince much of the Israeli public of their ultimate readiness to live peacefully in a state alongside Israel.
The Israeli government does

not want to be balmed for the collapse of peace efforts but is firmly convinced it has time on "Likud has the intention to

portray to the outer world there is a process going on... but they want to just keep it alive, nothing more," said one of the foreign observers. Diplomats could imagine

few developments that would reverse the trend and end the 42-year-old Palestinian-Israeli

Despite periodic government erises, most expect the current Likud-dominated coalition to survive. In the longer term, the traditionally rightthen an uncompromising

Most diplomats see the United States, which gives Israel \$3 billion in annual aid, as the only country able to push it into negotiations.

A senior U.S. official said last week that Israel would be unlikely to get the extra aid it needed to cope with the Soviet influx if it vacillated over peace talks or tried to settle the newcomers in the occupied terri-

But diplomats think Palestinians are unrealistic to expect heavy U.S. pressure on Israel for concessions which it says could threaten its existence.

"I think it's all pretty depressing," said a Euroepean diplomat. 'It's difficult to see where it goes next."

Tranian call

Moscow should stop the flow of Soviet Jews to the Israelioccupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Tehran newspaper said

The Tehran Times said the Kremlini was ignoring its moral responsibilities by allowing the Jews to emigrate to Israel "The Zionist leaders are ex-

plicitly using the East European Jews to perpetuate their occupation of Palestinian lands," said the newspaper, which is close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA received in Cyprus, the Tehran Times said Moscow's policy of allowing its Jewish citizens to leave the Soviet Union was acceptable and welcome. "(But) should... the free-

dom of immigration for one group obstruct justice to others and curb their right of ownership over their motherland?" the paper said in a reference to Arab and Western fears that the immigrants would displace Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"By turning a blind eye to such international and moral responsibility the Soviet leadership is only dimming the prospect for the liberation of Palestine."

alive in Beirut, **British paper reports**

LONDON (AP) — The Sunday Correspondent newspaper, quoting Iranian sources, reported Sunday that Western hostages

held in Lebanon were alive. The report said the unnamed sources in Hizbollah, a fundamentalist Shi'ite faction, had confirmed that the hostages, numbering 17 according to the newspaper's information, are "fit

The newspaper reported the hostages are kept in small groups and moved regularly from one safe house to another in west

The front-page story quoted a conversation heard by London-based reported Hala Jaber at a wake she attended recently in Beirut of a Hizbollah member killed in South Lebanon.

The Lebanese-born jourenalist said she head a well-known Hizbollah member tell her unidentified contact he had guarded hostages John McCarthy and Thomas Sutherland in the basement of a house in the southern suburbs of west Beirut

The paper quoted the Hizbollah member as saying the guards had instructions to keep the hostages healthy.

Most Western hostages in Lebanon are believed to be held received financial support from

Hizbollah wokrs closely with units of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, stationed in Lebanon since Israel's 1982 invasiosa, to build influence among the country's 1.5 million Shi'ites, Lebanon's largest sect. The longest held hostage is

Terry Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, who was kidnapped on March 16, 1985. McCarthy, 33, a British televi-

sion journalist, was kidnapped April 17, 1986 as he drove to Beirut airport to flee the country. Scottish-born U.S. citizen, Sutherland, 57, the acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, was abducted June 9, 1985.

This was not the usual Beirut talk, rumour mingled with speculation masquerading as fact," Jaber wrote about the conversation at the wake.

"These were two friends, talking privately after a funeral ion the heartland of Hizbollah. Nor did it seem likely that Hizbollah was deliberately leaking information; they could do that far more effectively by sending a photograph or a videotape of the hos-

by factions of Hizbollah, which tages to a Western news agency

or a local newspaper."
The Sunday Correspondent said the conversation was confirmed by a senior, unidentified member of Hizbollah's security network, who said McCarthy and Sutherland were held together.

"They are in the same cell. All the other hostages are alive and well," the newspaper quoted the source as saying. They are not held in the same place for security reasons. They have been split into small groups in various parts of the suburbs."

Jill Morrell, a television journalist who has campaigned for McCarthy's release, said the report matched information she had received from French hostage Paul Kauffmann, who was freed in 1988, the Sunday Correspondent reported.

"It is the most encouraging news we have had for a long time. There have been so many stories, but this one sounds as if makes sense," the Sunday Correspon-

dent quoted Morrell as saying. The newspaper quoted British government sources as saying the report was "interesting and

The Foreign Office had no

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BATTLE SCENE: Israeli Defence Minister

Yitzhak Rabin visits a house in South Lebason which was attacked by Israeli soldiers and allied

discuss

relations

diplomatic

in Denmark

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli

government representative left Sunday for preliminary talks with

East German officials on estab-

lishing diplomatic relations, the

A ministry official said the

meeting had been requested by

East Germany, which has never had diplomatic ties with Israel.

The foreign ministry also

issued a statement praising the

agreement last week between the

Soviet and Israeli chambers of

commerce to set up offices in

The statement described the

fact as "a milestone in the renew-

al of commercial and economic

ties," which have been severed

for more than three decades, and

said it hoped the agreement

would lead to full diplomatic rela-

The Soviet Union and most

Eastern bloc nations cut diploma-

tic ties with Israel after the 1967

Middle East war. The Soviets

severed economic ties earlier to

express anger over Israel's Suez

Canal campaign against Egypt in

The statement also urged the

Soviets to carry out an agreement

implemented by Moscow.

firm the earlier reports.

under way between the two sides.

Israeli officials declined to con-

A foreign ministry official, who

ministry's adviser on Jewish di-

aspora affairs and a former con-

All Soviet bloc states except

Romania severed diplomatic rela-

tions with Israel in 1967. Hungary

renewed ties last September, and

Israeli officials expect Poland and

Czechoslovakia to follow suit in

sular official in Bonn.

the near future.

the 1956 war.

each other's country.

foreign ministry announced.

ment Speaker Mahdi Karrubi said Sunday that a U.N. human rights investigation team currently in Tehran must be made aware of atrocities committed by an Iraq-based opposition group, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying that "we invite the human rights commission investigating human rights issues in Iran, to further become acquainted with the dirty and terroristic nature of the

The Baghdad-based Iranian opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, are referred to by Iranian officials and media as the munafequen, or hypocrites.

Karrubi blamed the attempted

hijacking of an Iranian airliner Thursday on the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, the radio reported. A United Nations human rights commission headed by Salvado-

rean envoy Reynaldo Galindo Pohl is on a week's visit to Tehran to investigate human rights abuses there. The Mujahedeen reported that

he has been deluged by torture victims and relatives of those executed by the government and that they staged a three-day sit-in at the U.N. office in Tehran. The opposition group said this led to Israel

Guard policemen attempting to break up their protest. The official Islamic Republic

militiamen last week. An Israeli colonel was killed

in the ensuing clash with resistance fighters.

.News Agency indirectly confirmed the protest when they reported that a "similar" action was taken by victims of the Mujahedeen but that Pohl refused to meet them. The Mujahedeen said in a

statement telexed from their Baghdad headquarters Sunday that Pohl was taken on a tour of the notorious Evin prison in north Tehran Thursday, but that the visit was stage-managed and the commission was barred from seeing the prison's torture chambers, or meeting with prisoners. Amnesty International, the hu-

man rights organisation, said in its 1989 report that more than 1,200 political prisoners were executed in Iran 1988.

ers were killed in a mid-air shootout with sectivity guards in which noone of the passengers was hurt. The radio referred to the hijackers as "Americam agents" who demanded to be flown to Iraq or

Four armed hijackers tried to take control of Iran Air flight 133 during a domestic flight Thursday, according to Tehran Radio. The report said all four hijack-

Sudan rebels to allow evacuation of Juba

CAIRO (AP) — The rebel Sudan Red Cross (ICRC) to airlift relief People's Liberation Army supplies to Juba and rebel-held (SPLA) said it would stop sheliing the capital of war-torn south Sudan Monday to allow evacuating foreigners there.

providing for resumption of direct flights between the two In a broadcast monitored in countries by Israel's El Al airlines London Sunday, the rebels said and Aeroflot, the Soviet national the ceasefire was agreed upon airline. The agreement, reached during a meeting at the Ethiopian last December, has not yet been capital Addis Ababa with an unnamed U.S. diplomat represent-The announcement on East ing the United States, Britain, Germany came two weeks after and international relief agencies. reports that quiet contacts were

It said the two sides agreed Friday that air evacuation from Juba should take place Monday from 0600 to 1800 local time. The broadcast was not specific

briefed reporters on condition of but the only known foreigners to anonymity, said Sunday the talks be in Juba are relief workers. were to take place in Europe, but The Sudanese government susdeclined to say where. Israel Radio reported that the talks pended international relief flights were being held in Copenhagen. He said Israel was being repreto war-affected areas in south sented by Michael Shiloh, the

Sudan in November, saying it took the measure guarantee the safety of relief workers. But it said Wednesday that it would allow international relief

organisation to airlift 5,000 tonnes of food donated by the European Community from Nairobi, Kenya, to Juba. The Sudanese government also

said it has given permission to the International Committee of the

supplies to Juba and rebel-held areas and the ICRC said it hopes to begin relief flilghts Monday.

"Within that period, the SPLA would not shell Juba, nor would it shoot at the planes evacuating these foreigners," the broadcast said. "Should any military plane fly into Juba at times not within the

specified hours, these agreements will be rendered null and void," the broadcast warned. ' Juba has been under periodic

artillery bombardment from the rebeis. Meanwhile, the broadcast said

the rebels Tuesday captured the garrison town of Umm Dawravn in southern Kordofan and assumed full control of the entire Umm Dawrayn district. "With the fall of Umm Daw-

rayn garrison, the SPLA is now in full control of the whole of Umm Dawrayn district," the broadcast

Fighting between rebels and government forces has intensified in southern, Sudan,

In addition to Umm Dawraya, the rebels this year alone claim to have captured 11 governmentcontrolled towns near Zaire and Uganda broders.

Death toll goes up in Tunisian floods

TUNIS (Agencies) — Floods in least 15,850 homes. southern Tunisia have killed at Expressing his conleast 30 people and caused damage of more than \$200 million, according to the official news agency TAP.

It said 27 people were still missing after the floods, caused by five days of torrential rain. It put damage estimates at 200 million dinars (\$222 million).

The floods are thought to have destroyed 13,000 homes, damaged another 23,000 and swept away at least 14,000 head of

Extensive damage has been reported to roads, railways, farms and drinking water supplies. In the Sidi Bouzid region officials said some 500 wells were unus-

Sunny weather since Friday has enabled relief supplies to be taken to most stricken areas in nine southern provinces but some villages are still marooned by

The Health Ministry said measures were being taken to prevent outbreaks of disease.

King Fahd of Sandi Arabia, expressing his "deep pain" of the flooding in Tunisia, Saturday ordered the immediate transfer of \$50 million in aid to the country.

The Saudi Press Agency distributed the text of the covering cable that Fahd sent to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben

As of Friday, the floods had killed 25 people and destroyed at Bouzid province.

Expressing his condolences to the families of the dead, the king said the aid was meant to "ease the pain of those who are suffering and as a contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to confront expenses for relief

Fahd had also sent \$50 million in immediate help to King Hassan of Morocco to combat damage from a major oil spill in early January resulting from an explo-sion in the fully laden Iranian supertanker Khark 5.

Protests

Protesters angry at delays in aid after the floods have tried to storm government offices in the second such protest in a week, TAP said Sunday.

About 500 people marched Saturday to local government offices in the southwestern town of Nefta but security forces prevented them from seizing the buildings.

The agency said they then pelted the building with rocks, molested a local official and set fire to a parked car.

The government blamed Muslim fundamentalists for a pre-vious incident in the town of Sidi Bonzid in which demonstrators attacked the local governor's offices.

Ben Ali admitted that complaints were legitimate when he dismissed the governor of Sidi

Saudi Arabia gives \$12 m to intifada

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Sandi 10 years under terms of pledges Arabia Saturday gave the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) \$12 million to support the two-year-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

"The PLO received \$12,040,000... for November and December 1989," PLO Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Rafiq Al Natsheh told SPA. He said Saudi Arabia was the

only Arab country fulfilling its obligations to the group.

PLO and Arab states on the frontline of conflict with Israel. Since January 1989, King Fahd ordered an extra \$6 million a month to help finance the up-

by Arab countries to help the

'The summit conference of the Arab League, hosted by Algeria in June 1988, pledged a one-shot donation of \$128 million for the intifada plus a monthly payment of \$43 million for as long as it lasted.

The PLO has often complained Riyadh has paid the PLO that Arab countries are not around \$850 million over the lest praying their communitions. انكما

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DFLP says fighter missing after battle

BEIRUT (AP) — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of its fighters was missing after a clash with Israeli troops and allied militiamen in South Lebanon Friday.

A communique distributed in Beirut late Saturday by the DFLP identified the missing guerrilla as Mohammad Habanjar, a 19-yearold Lebauese who joined the group in 1988.

The DFLP claimed in previous communiques that a raiding guerrilla squad that allegedly ambushed an Israeli army patrol in Israel's self-designated "security zone" Friday had returned safely to base. "But a later check has estab-.

lished that comrade Mohammad Habanjar, code named Abu Samra, was not among the returning fighters," Saturday's communique said. The PLO faction, which is

headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, said it held Israel "responsible for any harm that befalls the missing comrade." Israeli sources said Israelibacked Lebanese militiamen in

South Lebanon captured an armed Palestinian guerrilla heading towards Israel Saturday.

They said members of the South Lebanon Army who cap-tured the man said be had an automatic rifle and belonged to

The DFLP had claimed that nine Israeli soldiedrs were either Palestine (DFLP) has said one of killed or wounded in the alleged ambush and ensuing battles as the raiders, whose number was not mentioned, fought their way out of the "security zone".

Also Saturday, the Amal militia claimed responsibility for a roadside bomb and a land mine that exploded five hours apart in the "security zone" Friday. The claim came in a brief Amal

communique issued in the southern port city of Tyre, without any elaboration. Security sources had said three Israeli soldiers were wounded in

the blasts near Baraachit, a village that houses the command of the Irish battalion of the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon. The area of operations of the

nine-nation U.N. force overlaps with the "security zone" that Israel carved out in 1985, when it withdrew the bulk of its occupation army three years after invading Lebanon.

The zone, which has a pre-dominantly Shi'ite population, is 10 to 16 kilometres deep, stretching from the Mediterranean coast to the slopes of Mount Hermon. It is controlled by the South Lebanon Army, a mostly Christian militia of 3,500 men armed, trained and funded by Israel, assisted by an estimated 1,500 Israeli troops.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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Five envoys present credentials to King

Sunday presented their crodes

The new embassadors are talk to his Majesty King Hussein Abdullah Jubara of Sudan, at separate ecremonics held in Chang Delling of China, Al the presence of China of the Taypeb Abdul Rahman of Pales-Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben tine, Taron Khan Hreidi of Pakin-Shaker, the King's political advites and Tadayoki Nonoyama of sor Admin Abu Odoh, China Japan. The armont forces band Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bon payed the national anthoms of Zeid and Deputy Prime Minister the five countries as well as the and Foreign Minister Maryan Al Jordanian national anthon.

Two Jordanians missing in Kuwait

AMMAN (Penn) — Two Jordanian citizens have been reported missing in Kuwait and Kawain security authorities have beenched a wide scale investigation to find them, seconding to Jordan's Ambancador to Kewait Nabil Al

Talbouni, who did not name the two citizens, said they were the Kuwaiti coast. Search operations were continuing but no trace of the two men was found,

Tathousi said that the Foreign Ministry in Assessin had been informed of the issue.

1,000 schools needed in next 10 years — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) - The Miontry of Education is in need of at least 1,000 more schools in the next ten years in order to cope with the rapidly increasing sum-ber of students, according to ministry Secretary-General Monther Al Massi.

Schools in Jordan receive 30,000 male and female new students every year and this requires more space and more classes to give them a proper education," Masri told a visiting education

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delegation from Knwait. He said that plans had been made for building 430 schools in the first stage and the rest would be constructed in two stages. According to Masri, a total of 200 schools in Jordan provide training on computers and the stry wants to spread this to all schools in the forme.

He said that in accordance with resolutions taken by the first National Educational Conference beld in 1987, vocational education and computer science had been introduced in the curricula as compulsory subjects for all

Masri reviewed with the visiting delogation steps being taken to overhead the offication system in the Kingdom and said that a total of 320 teachers were now receiving advanced training courses to help in the effort to overhand the system.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

TUNISIAN MINISTER LEAVES: Tonisian Minister of Culture and Information Al Buhib Bul Iras left Amman Sunday at the conclusion of a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the Tunisian official delivered a message from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ait to His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the developments in the Arab and international areas and their impact on Arab issues including the Palestine question. The Tunkian official also discussed with accord section officials means to bolster bilateral relations (Petra):

WEST BANK COLLEGE APPLICANTS: The Ministry of Higher Education has sent memoranda to all community colleges in Jordan instructing them to consider applications from West Bank students who passed the tawilli examination in 1989 and earlier from Sunday and no later than Feb. 1, Ministry of Higher Education sources said. These colleges, the sources added, would scats. The names of accepted students will be published in local papers no later than Feb. 5 (Petra).

INTERNATIONAL BOOK EXHIBITION: The second Amman International Book Exhibition will open Feb. 20 with the participation of representatives of a large number of publication houses, institutions, as well as Arab and foreign universities. The exhibition will cover about 25 topics of science and culture with about 1.25 million books. Jordanian and Arab specialists will hold cultural activities and seminars on the sidelines of the exhibition. The exhibition is regarded a completion of the first exhibition held last year under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra).

JORDAN GIVES IRAQ SAPLINGS: The Ministry of Agriculture has presented 30,000 pine nut saplings to the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture. This step is part of cooperation between the ministries in Iraq and Jordan to develop agriculture in both countries (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

* A lecture, in Arabic, by Dr. Husni Al Shayyab entitled "Democracy in Jordan — past and present" at Abdul Hamood Shoung Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

* A French film entitled "Le Dernier Metro" at the French Culturi Centre - 8:00 p.ta.



Jordan's agriculture potential gets international exposure

By Sana Atiyeh Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has a high potential to penetrate the European market with its highquality agricultural produce, but there is a dire need for intense efforts to modernise the process of grading, packing and shipping in the Kingdom, according to agricultural ex-

with the first-ever broad participation in what is billed as the biggest agricultural exhibition in the world, Jordaman exporters have been offered a chance to learn what the European market requires in quantity as well as quality upon arrival. A team of 10 Jordanian exporters -- eight of them from the private sector and two representing the Agri-cultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) — is participating in the annual interntional Green Week Berlin in West Germany which opened

The exhibition is expected to aw more than half a million visitors from all parts of the world, according to an official from the Agricultural Marketing Development Project (AMDP) funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The AMDP is a major financier of the Kingdom's participation in the event, and the West German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is paying for Jordan's 60 square metre space at the 74,000square-metre exhibition

According to Jamil Zureikat, the AMDP coordinator who is working closely with the AMO — a government agency — high-quality vegetables grown in the Jordan Valley are the main items on

display at the Kingdom's stall.

Zureikat told the Jordan
Times that the AMO had already shipped four loads of vegetables, a tonne each, to the exhibition. The AMO bought the produce from the exporters and handled the packaging and delivery to West

Mostly displaying green and hot pepper, cucumbers, toma-

toes, groen beans, eggplants, zuchini, oranges, lemons, as well as samples of carnations, the Jordanian delegation expects to benefit a great deal from Green Week, scheduled

to last until Feb. 4. This is the first high-scale private sector participation in such an internationally-renowned exhibition of agricultural products," said Munther Azar, project officer of the AMDP.

"We expect Jordanian exporters to make deals with German and European importers," Azar said.

According to one exporter taking part in the event, Mohammad Atiyeh, Green Week gives exporters a chance to study the German and European market,

"This is a good opportunity for us to learn methods in marketing our agricultural products in Europe; how to grade, package and deliver the produce in an outstanding manner in order to compete with other exporting countries," Atiyeh

He added that the agricultural equipment on display would give the Jordanian participants an idea of modern and up-to-date machinery that could be useful in agriculture

The acting chief of party of AMDP and agricultural eco-nomist, floyd Brown, told the Jordan Times that the Jordanian participants not only have the opportunity to display their products and formulate possible contracts with German and European importers but also a good chance to learn what the European market requires.

"Through Green Week, they (exporters) will better understand the European quality and standards of produce required by the importers. They will also get an idea about the timing of market windows --- a specific period of time when certain products are needed in that part of the world," Brown said.

He noted that there was a very large market for agricultural produce in Europe, "especially at this time of year (winter), where Europe imports large quantities of produce."

Jordan can compete

Brown asserted that Jordan was in a position to actively compete with other countries for the European market be-cause of the quality which the country's produce.

According to Brown, a major problem lies in post-harvesting procedures: packaging, sorting, grading and shipping. He cited the management of exports as another problem facing Jordanian exporters. "Exporters should be able to

identify the markets, manage the production and post-production handling to ensure that the quality product arrives the destination in an orderly, timely fashion," Brown said.
He added that Jordanian ex-

porters do not have enough experience in exporting, especially to European buyers, "who have very specific regula-tions and high standards." Brown said that the exporters

were more accustomed to traditional markets, such as the Arabian Gulf states. "This is also changing; now. There is a Gulf now, which requires Jordan to improve their export management quality," he said. The Jordanian delegation to

Green Week will have the. opportunity to understand the European market, especially that every hotel room in Berlin has been "extremely" booked for participants and visitors to the event, according to one of the delegation's organisers from AMDP

She said that after the exhibition ends, the delegation is scheduled to take a five-day guided tour to the major agricultural areas in Germany, including Frankfurt, Munich and Dusseldorf.
The organiser said that more

than just agricultural produce will be displayed. "We are also displaying Jordanian handwoven rugs, baskets, brass and other local handicrafts. There is also a model present at the exhibition wearing Jordanian traditional dress," she said.

The organiser added that the delegation would benefit from participating in three separate forums on agricultural policy, fruits and vegetables and on flowers and horticulture.

Merchants push demand for higher profit margins

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Supply Merchants Association Sunday issued a statement in support of their demand that the margin of profit on imported products should be 22 per cent rather than remain at 15 per cent set by the government last year.

The statement said the increase in prices does not mean that "it is pure profit but it will cover transport and administrative costs, refrigeration, storage and other ex-

The statement came in reply to demands made by the Minister of Supply to the association to reduce prices of food supplies and contribute to the national effort to earlier urged the Ministry of Supply to fix prices on all food all imported commodities. supplies still lying in the ministry's warehouses because much of the products would go had with time. However, the statement said that the association would accept the present arrangement for 15 per cent profit until a joint government-parliamentary com-

reached a compromise solution. The statement said that circumstances beyond the association's control, such as a rise in the prices of commodities in the sidies on exported goods.

mittee had completed its inves-

tigation into the whole issue and

reduce the soaring cost of living country of origin and a rise in the in Jordan. The association had exchange rate of the U.S. dollar exchange rate of the U.S. dollar were behind the hike in prices of

The association estimates the price hike between 90 and 100 per cent based on the exchange rate of the dollar, which was worth 340 fils be: 1989 and is

now 700 fils, the ...: ement said. In addition, the statement said, the government has, since November 1959, imposed a two per cent extra duty on imported goods, including food supplies imported from Western European countries, while the Europeans have now removed all sub-

APC posts record output

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) plant in Ghor Al Safi recorded an all-time high production figure for any single day Friday, when 5,010 metric tons were produced, according to the plant's director-general. Nasdeputy director-general, Nasser Sadonn.

Potash production had pre-viously reached an all-time high last year when production in-creased from 1,309,627 metric tons in 1988 to 1,320,444 metnick tons in 1989.

The plant, which has been operating since 1983, hopes to produce 1,400,000 metric tons in 1990, Sadoun said during a tour of the plant by diplomats and journalists.

APC Managing-Director Ali

Nsour said last week that profits had increased by \$5 million in 1989. up from \$120 in 1988 to \$125 in 1989. He said that the increase in earnings in 1989 was a result of a rise in international potash prices and the devaluation of the Jordanian

Potash cost \$67 a tonne in 1987, but the figure rose to \$95 a ton in 1989, Sadoun said. He said that the estimated price of potash on the international market should be no lower than \$90 in 1990. He added that the price of petash depended largely on the output of the main producers of potash namely the USSR, Canada, West Germany and East Germany.

While Jordan and Canada (for example) utilise very little of the potash that they produce, the USSR accounts for 23 per cent of potash utilised worldwide. North America, Western Europe and Asia consume between 16 and 17 per cent each and Eastern Europe consumes about 10 per cent. An average of 33 per cent of APC's sales go to india, and

about 22 per cent to China while the rest is sold to Italy, France and several Asian Potash, a widely used ferti-

liser ingredient, accounts for about 20 per cent of Jordan's

The company, which started out in 1983 with a high percentage of non-Jordanian white and blue collar staff, today employs over 1,300 people, 80 per cent of them Jordanian.

According to Sadoun, the company hopes to begin making profits as of 1991, after the company's \$60 million accumulated losses are covered and is expected to invite bids for a new refinery line in early 1991.

Arab panel to meet in Tunis on intifada

TUNIS (Petra) - A seven-member Arab League team will open a meeting here Feb. 5 to resume world-wide efforts to mobilise public opinion in support of the Palestinian people's intifada in the occupied Arab territories and to expose Israel's inhuman practices against the population.

A statement issued by the Arab League headquarters here said that the foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Egypt as well as the head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab League's secretary-general would hold plan new moves on the international level in general and contacts with members of the U.N. Security Council in particular concerning the situation in the

occupied Arab lands. The meeting will mark the meetings.

signed to serve the Palestinian cause and to give momentum to the current efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East," according to Farouk Al Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department.

He said that the offensive was aimed at ensuring the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland and to end Israel's oppion sive practices in the contred

The seven-membermattee, which was set up in 1 25, toured several European countries and the United States in its drive to support the Palestinian people's cause. Kaddoumi said that the question of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine would be on the agenda of the committee

JPMC pays JD 40m income tax for 1989

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income cheque of JD 40 million from the earlier this month. Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) as a first instalment due on its profits for 1989.

company will pay the remaining month. The cheque was handed to the department by JPMC Director-General Wasef Azar. According to Azar, Jordan,

which is the third biggest rock freer markets. phosphate exporter, earned a record \$434 million from its highest

"1989 was a record year fi m Tax Department Sunday all angles," Azar said in an in: rannounced that it had received a view with Reuters news agency

Azar said JPMC exported 6.4 tue on its profits for 1989. million tonnes of phosphate last The department said that the year, compared with 5.8 million tonnes in 1988. He expected that JD 10 million in income tax next the company would increase earnings this year and hoped to boost exports to Eastern European countries trying to implement reforms that would lead to.

> Azar said that phosphate production would increase to 10 or

Police apprehend counterfeit group

AMMAN (J.T.) - A four-mem- group is continuing. The report ber group, including a citizen said the Public Security Departfrom another Arab country, was ment's (PSD) office in charge of apprehended by the police in counterfeiting and drugs first Amman while trying to sell a learned about the case when it

them in local money markets.

According to the report, an, investigation into the to one of the group.

large amount of forged Iranian was tipped by an informer about currency, a local daily reported one of the four carrying a substantial amount of the counterfeit A report in Al Dustour Arabic money and trying to exchange it daily Sunday said that police for a piece of land. It said that the found 37,820,000 Iranian "tu- non-Jordanian Arab had been mans" in the possession of the working as a bus driver between group before it was able to peddle Jordan and neighbouring cour. tries and that was how he was able to smuggle in the money. It which quoted Ismail Ragheb, said that the money was hidden in the attorney general in Amm- the garden of a house belonging

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Arafat appeals to Moscow

(Continued from page I)

stand fast against U.S. pressures for "concessions" on Middle East peace issues and threatened to resign from his job if he loses an upcoming party vote of confidence.

It is "self understood that if the top institution of Liked doesn't accept the policy of Likud's leader, then I can no longer fill this position," Shamir, who heads the right-wing Likud bloc, said in a pre-recorded interview broadcast

The Likud meeting has been called for Feb. 7 by central committee chairman and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon to debate his objections to Israel's plan to

hold elections. Saturday's threat was the second time this week Shamir has said he would step down if Sharon and his lobby known as the "constraining ministers" succeeds in undermining party support for Israel's plan.

This time, Shaper added he would insist on a separate vote for his own proposals, suggesting for any pressure," Shamir said.

he would not suffice with a rejection of Sharon's recommenda-

The party inlighting has temporarily set back Baker's efforts to arrange a meeting of the Egyptian, American and Israeli foreinisters in Washington. Baker's planned meeting is

supposed to set the stage for the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. Shamir said that "this meeting, (in Washington) as is known, will not yet be held. There is no point to holding this meeting until it is clear that positions of the sides are close enough to allow a fore-

ign ministers meeting that will end in agreed decisions."

Turning to another thorny issue, Shamir mid high-ranking American officials have assured him that the administration of President George Bush never authorised recent published suggestions to decrease financial assist-

ance to larael. "I am happy about these state-ments. I don't think there is room

'Gorbachev not under threat

(Continued from page 1) have mounted in recent weeks. The Communist Party in the

Baltic Republic of Lithuania has broken with its Moscow comrades in a campaign for independence, and long-ammering ethnic hatreds and territorial disputes have boiled over into open warfare in the southwestern Caucasus region. Gorbachev ordered troops into the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to crush an armed takeover by Azerbaijani

nationalists. In his written comments, Shevardnadze said secession of some of the Soviet Union's independence-minded republics would not only cause military, political and economic problems for them but could "result in a major destabilisation of the existing international structure."

"It is in no one's interest to see this happen," the foreign minister standpoint of class struggle but said in his written response. "The problems of inter-ethnic relations are so delicate and sensitive that one should avoid

Otherwise, one can provoke unpredictable repercussions," he

Shevardnadze, whose home republic of Soviet Georgia is among those with an active nationalist movement, was practically unknown outside the Soviet Union before Gorbachev plucked him from his post as Georgian Communist Party chief to replace veteran Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko shortly after Gorbachev rose to power in March

With a warm smile and pensive manner, Shevardnadze, who marked his 62nd birthday last week, has reshaped the image of Soviet foreign policy molded for three decades by Gromyko's stony countenance.

Almost from the beginning, Shevardnadze showed a willingness to negotiate not from a from Gorbachev's "new thinking," which asserts that world problems can be resolved through international cooperation, disany outside interference in the armament and attention to "huprocess of their development, man values."

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House in order

THE strong interest shown by members of the Lower House of Parliament in discussing at length the draft budget law can be easily explained by the organic link between the budget and the economic and fiscal woes of the country. There is no doubt that bread and butter issues in these difficult times are uppermost on the minds of all Jordanians. and it is therefore natural that their elected representatives attempt to reflect these concerns during the deliberations of the past two days. Judging by speeches made in the House, the rising high cost of living and growing unemployment have received the lion's share of the parliamentarians' concerns, and rightly so, we think. There is clearly an urgent need to address these two major economic problems although the budget for 1990 does not appeal to offer any immediate panacea for either.

Equally pressing is how to handle past errors of judge-ment and sometimes gross mishandling of the Jordanian economy and fiscal policies. Many parliamentarians want to establish in the clearest possible terms the connection between the policies and actions of former governments and officials and the existing economic and fiscal policies in order to begin the process of holding them accountable for the mess we are facing today. No one in the country would want to hush up previous major grave commissions or omissions, least of all the newly-elected parliament which now has an opportunity of a lifetime to establish its credibility as genuine spokesmen of its constituency.

But important and pressing as all these issues are, the Kingdom has still to reckon a realistic and meaningful way to deal with the number one economic and fiscal challenge, namely, the huge external debt problem. Perhaps it is propitious now to introduce imaginative and bold views on how best to deal with the grave danger to Jordan's economy and fiscal situation. It is not far-fetched nor self-defeating to echo once again what some parliamentarians have proposed as a way out of the debt problem: To make a more determined effort to write off such a debt or most of it in exchange for the implementation of some domestic policies tht are geared towards solving Jordan's economic. social and environmental problems.

Whether Jordan would succeed in eliminating most of its external debt by perseverance and with the consent of creditor nations is only part of the picture. But whereas it is relevant to try such policy with the hope that the response of the international community would be favourable, it is nevertheless incumbent on us to start by getting our act together and put our own house in order.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday again discussed the question of Jewish immigration to Palestine and referred to Israel's new campaign to advocate the idea of Jordan serving as homeland for the Palestinians. The paper said His Majesty King Hussein's warning about the Jewish immigration came to point out to the Arab Nation and the world at large the real dimension of the danger inherent in Israel's plans to drive out the Palestinian Arabs from their homeland and to settle the Jews in their land. The paper also referred to Shamir's declaration that Israel will be transformed into a greater Israel with the arrival of a million Jews and this indicates that there will be a new expansion at the expense of the Arab Nation. Israel is Palestine; and this is a fact known to the whole world which realises that it is Israel which continues to occupy Arab territory and to colonise it, stealing away Arab homes, lands and water resources, the paper noted. What the Israeli extremists dream of, said the paper, is but an illusion and madness which can never become a reality thanks to national unity in Jordan and the determination of the Arab Nation to thwart all Israeli expansionist plans.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday calls on the Civil Service Commission which processes applications for employment in government offices to take into consideration the economic and social status of people in the course of appointing them in their posts. Fakhri Kawar says that he knows of a case in which a married woman has been waiting for employment for more than two years after graduating from a community college where she studied computer, and still has no job despite her applications at the Civil Service Commission and government and private sector offices. He says that the husband is sick and his JD 80 a month is barely sufficient for his medicine; and she desperately needs a job to support the five-member family. The writer notes that the Civil Service Commission todate has been processing applications in terms of qualifications, giving priority to those who send in their applications first; but he says the commission should look into the hiving conditions and social status of an applicant before filling the position, because certain groups in society are really in need of work to live. The writer says that in view of the unemployment in Jordan and the lack of sufficient jobs, one should give more attention to less fortunate people rather than offer jobs to the more fortunate.

Al Dustour Arabic daily on Sunday discussed a report by the Lower House of Parliament's financial committee on the country's 1990 fiscal budget. The paper noted that the debate in Parliament has been going on with objectivity and a sense of high responsibility; and that the figures given were found by deputies to be realistic. The paper said that any criticism here and there and any objection to parts of the minister of finance's report on the budget, can only indicate a good and healthy sign of democracy, and that all the legislative as well as the executive authorities are involved in a process to serve the national

Weekly Political Pulse

The law governs rights, duties of citizens

IT IS rather interesting but alarming to see how many Jordanian "thinkers" discuss the relations between Jordanian of various origins in a complete legal void. It so happens that Jordan is a modern state that applies contemporary guidelines and norms to define its own citizenship phenomenon on par with all contemporary societies and peoples across the entire world. To treat and debate the status of Jordanians of Palestinian origin in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan according to emotional bursts or whims, unrelated to the rule of law, is utterly ridiculous and dangerous. One of the main features and attributes of modern statehood is the application of the rule of law in determining relations between the state and its citizens on the one hand and the relationships between the citizens themselves on the other. To hear a political scientist in Jordan defining such relationship on archiac basis or on criteria that belong to bygone days and times is

This is not to suggest that the meaning and implications of citizenship should be rendered empty or shallow by citizens who profess loyalty to another country and express readiness to forsake their citizenship duties and rights for alien ones that are not compatibe with their own true sense of citizenship. Rather it is a call for the resort to the rule of law to govern such a regime. Citizens, whatever their roots and origins are, are not and should never be regarded or treated as herds that can be denied their citizenship rights and obligations by arbitrary means. Perhaps the time to sift through individuals or even peoples applying for citizenship rights and obligations is right at the start, before they are granted such citizenship. But once they are accorded such rights and obligations in accordance with the law, then any retraction of these rights and duties shall be executed through the

As a matter of fact there is hardly a country in the world which does not suffer or rather has not experienced hardships connected

with new citizens and their offsprings. This phenomenon is no longer confined to immigrant-oriented countries such as the U.S., Canada or Australia, but has affected the rest of the community of countries that have been forced to liberalise their immigration policies. One wonders if Irish Americans for example can be viewed as less Americans or Canadians or Australians simply because they still entertain nostalgic feelings towards their native country or even because they lend support to the "Irish intifada" in Northern Ireland. And what applies to the Irish can apply to all sorts of other nationalities that make up many countries in these

ever changing times.

What probably led to paranoia about Jordanians of Palestinian origin and their role and status in the Kingdom or their relationship with the indigenous Jordanians is the constant reference to the incredible notion that Jordan is Palestine or Palestine is Jordan. It is just probable that the more there is talk about such ridiculous ideas the more it will gain currency and credibility. There are strong and many arguments in favour of halting the repetition of or reference to the greatest and wickedest of Israeli lies for fear that all of us who keep hammering on this point would be willy nilly playing into the hands of the Israelis without knowing or realising it. There is always the fear that giving wider currency to a dangerous thought or conspiracy or design would lend it some credibility in the final analysis. True, the country and its good citizens must be on guard against various conspiracies that are being hatched up against them, but this should be done in a well-guarded and controlled manner lest the very discussion becomes the tool for its implementation and its emotions debate becomes the mechanism for its execution.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a proud Arab country with strong and deep traditions and roots in statehood. As young as it is, it is older than more than half of the member states of the U.N. It is just too far-fetched to even think that Jordan can ever be a victim of its own people, especially to the ones among them whose roots and origins take them to other Arab lands or countries across its borders. It would be sheer hypocritical and utterly naive to ever entertain the notion that the Jordanian identity is so vulnerable and up for grabs by any other peoples or parties or factions. All those who profess otherwise simply lack self confidence and deep rooted trust in their own sense of identity. And all outsiders who still entertain such bizzare ideas simply prove that they know very little about the country and what

There must be a more determined effort to curtail the proliferation of all ill-guided discussions on the issue of Jordamians of Palestinian origin lest they end up exacerbating the entire subject matter even more and pour oil on the fire. The Kingdom, government and people, must take as a point of departure in all such deliberations the well-established proposition that Iordanians are Jordanians under the law of the land and will always be treated as such period. It goes without saying that any lordanian caught involved in any conspiracy against the well-being and security of the Kingdom should be prosecuted in accordance with the law and punished accordingly.

I for one would rather have my government stop talking about the Israeli description of Jordan as being Palestine and instead just go on with the task of strengthening the inner fabrics of the society by proceeding forward at moderate speed with the incorporation of deeper foundations for the ongoing democratic process in the Kingdom. All the Jordanians' concerns whether real or imaginary can be ironed out within the new framework of parliamentary life that is fortunately existing now. Yet at all times lordanians of all origins must keep in mind that all this talk about Jordan is Palestine or Palestine is Jordan intended to have Jordanians get on throats of each other.

Financial committee report to Lower House

Draft budget is objective and realistic, but fails to quantify dimensions of economic crisis

The following is the text of the report of the Lower House of Parliament's financial committee on the 1990 fiscal budget, presented to Parliament on Sunday:

The Lower House in its ninth meeting of the first ordinary session held on Jan. 6, 1990 referred the fiscal budget for 1990 to the house financial committee. The committee held a series of morning and evening meetings between Jan. 7 and Jan. 23, 1990 to. discuss the budget under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdullah Nsour and the committee's rapporteur Abdullah Akayleh as well as committee members: Hamzeh Mansour, Ahmad Qteish, Abdul Salam Freihat Fuad Al Khalafat, Dr. Dheeb Marii, Jamal Haddad, Issa Reimouni, Ata Al Shahwan, Samir Oawar, Mohammad Alawneh, Bassam Haddadin, Matir Al Bustanji, Ahmad Kafawin, and Ali Hawamdeh. One of the meetings was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and House Speaker Suleiman Arar.

Dr. Khalil Al Salem, rapporteur of the Upper House's financial committee attended part of the meetings, but most of the meetings, were attended by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh and Ali Gharaibeh, director

general of the general budget. The financial committee also invited the following economists to sound their views on the budget: Jawad Al Anani, Fahed Al Fanek, Ahmad Nimri, Abdullah Al Maliki and Sami Qam-

mouh.

The final session was attended by the following: Public Security Director Fadel Ali, Minister of water and irrigation, energy and mineral resources, education and higher education, as well as the secretaries general of the Ministry of Water and irrigation, the directors of the Jordan Valley Authority, the Jordan Electricity Authority, and representa-tive of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

The financial committee of the Lower House of Parliament is pleased to present to the House its report on the country's 1990 fiscal budget which defines the main principles and the broadlines for the economic adaptation programme which covers the period 1989-1993.

The report by the Ministry of Finance on the budget defines the main elements of the 1990 fiscal

The report on the budget was this time characterised with a high degree of responsibility and was realistic and objective, revealing a great deal of facts related to the economic, financial and monetary situations in the

The financial committee's discussions on the budget in the past period led to the emergence of a host of issues which the committee would like to present to the House as follows:

FIRST: The overall economy of Jordan:

The past two years revealed major economic problems and deficiencies that led to the creation of major social and political problems that almost led to a deterioration in stability and the loss of tranquility and public confidence in Jordan's ability to steer the economy and to overcome the present predicament.

Perhaps the main features of this situation and the economic setback lay in a recession in the development levels, the high level deficit in the budget, an imbalance in the balance of payments, an increase in external and internal debts, the depletion of Jordan's foreign currency reserves, the sapping of a great part of the Kingdom's gold reserves, the sharp decline in the exchange rate of the dinar, unemployment, higher cost of living, higher inflation, the collapse of financial institutions like a number of commercial banks and money exchange houses.

These problems have led to shaking of confidence in the Jordanian economy, which in turn led to a noticeable retreat in Jordanian expatriates remitt-ances, a recession in new investment and the flight of savings. This economic crisis had led to

consequences that in turn caused an aggravation of the whole problem which became more complicated despite the fact that the budget report this time was more objective and more realistic as mentioned before, yet it failed to give specific and clear figures of the dimensions of the economic problem in its various aspects. The budget report did not present a review of economic development and the development of the balance of payments, the balance of trade, consumption, growth, the volume of debts, unemployment and inflation but only touched on them here and there in varying degrees. The lack of sufficient details rendered the budget report incapable of serv-ing as a national plan for economic adaptation.

The report should have been comprehensive, realistic and supported by documents which can indicate measures to be taken to implement the economic prog-

The report began by outlining the accumulation of foreign debts on Jordan, which constitute the original cause of the economic crisis. Those debts brought about further heavy and intolerable burdens on the people. These debts were included in agreements drawn up outside the constitutional channels since none of them had been presented to the representatives of the nation except those agreements relating to development; and many of the agreements in this respect were referred to the deputies after the government had committed itself

to them. It is regrettable to see that the internal debt volume has also risen exorbitantly each exceeding JD 1, superceding all safe margins and drowning the treasury with inperishable debts.

The previous governments used to find pretexts to defend such debts by saying that money was needed for capital and development projects. But in fact the loans were spent on non-developmental projects and were obtained through commercial deals with high interest rates.

The result was that projects lost power to repay interests on the loans, and eventually were burdened on the treasury, hence the adverse impact on the financial, monetary and economic structure. This can only point to the fact that economic policies were ill-planned and decisions were poorly studied.

This in turn reflects no responsible attitude on the part of the government towards foreign and internal borrowing to meet the development needs and points to irresponsibility towards the country's economy and its financial and monetary systems.

Several warnings came from the previous Lower House of Parliament's financial committees during debates on the annual budget about the debt issue. Therefore, we hope the House will give the situation an examining look and we will help you to carry this examination later when we start discussing the financial and economic crisis facing the Kingdom so that you can take the most responsible decision as representatives of the nation.

The government's debts have exceded internally-recognised safe limits and moved into a dangerous area. Figures indicate that the ratio of debt service to total exports of products and services in the past two years were as 1988 39 per cent

1989 23 per cent In 1990 the ratio is expected to

reach 27 per cent, a high rate, transcending all safe margins by seven degrees increase. In diagnosing the causes that

led to the present crisis, the government, and for the first time. has given reasons other than those given in the past years which used to lay the blame on the failure of obtaining promised Arab financial assistance. The government this time has referred to other reasons, like excessive spending in the past years, failure to take the initiative to adopt reform measures when the crisis presented itself, allowing the export sector to lose its competitive power, failure to adjust unrealistic rates of exchange, failure to adjust the balance of payments, and to handle the depletion of the Kingdom's foreign currency re-

In addition to all this there was the economic recession which dominated the whole area, coupled with a retreat in demand of national products in foreign markets and a decrease for the need of Jordanian workers in oil producing countries.

Second: the economic adaptation programme: The financial committee reviewed the various ideas pre-* sented by the government in the draft budget report on the overall

framework and the broadlines of

the economic reform programme which can be summed up as

attention here:

1- The real growth rate will develop from minus 2 per cent in 1988 to 4 per cent in 1993 and that the targeted growth rate is 3 per cent in 1990. It is doubtful that this can be achieved. 2- The increase in the private

sector's investment in the five years is one per cent in proportion to the gross domestic product. The investments of the public sector in the same years will remain stable. But these figures do not forecast the creation of new job opportunities to cope with the present and future de-Hence the financial committee

finds that it is its duty to draw the attention to this situation and to sound the alarm about the dangers of unemployment in Jordan because the present budget did not offer any solutions except within the context of a discussion between the committee, the prime minister and the minister of finance and his aides. The solutions they offered were only organisational and administrative. Solution of the unemployment problem can hinge on three principles:

First: Management reform like substituting. foreign labourers with local workers, re-training, creating offices to market national workers etc.

Second: Productive investment and utilising unused productive energy in industries and other

Third: Export of labour. The committee would like to inform the House of the gist of a letter of intention by the former minister of finance and the Central Bank of Jordan governor sent on behalf of the Jordanian government to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on April 13, 1989. In the light of this letter the policies and principles of the adaptation programme were laid. The letter included 23 points summed as follows:

1- The first clause tackles the accelerating growth rates achieved by Jordan in the past period which began in the mid 1980s and the accompanying rise in the level of per capita income and the improvement in living conditions and investments in the fields of health, education, and social services. As well as the improvement in the telecommunications network, the infrastructure, which contributed to

encouraging investments. 2- The second phase deals with the government's continued drive to speed up the process of social

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| | as of | expected in | |
| In proportion to the | | · : | |
| gross domestic product | 1988-1989 | 1993 | |
| Consumption | 103% | 92% | |
| Savings - | -3% | 8% | |
| Investments of which | 26% | 27% | |
| (Governmental) | 11% | 11% | |
| (Private) | 15% | 16% | |
| Growth rate | -2% | 4% | |
| Internal revenues | 31% | 36% | |
| Expenditure | 49% | 46% | |
| Budget deficit | . 4270 | , 70,70 | |
| (Before assistance) | | . 00/ | |
| Balance of trade deficit | 20% | 9% | |
| | 40% | . 30% | |
| Current balance of | | | |
| payments deficit | 6% | _ | |
| Reserves (1989) | \$350 million \$ | \$350 million \$750 million | |
| Rate of inflation | 25% | 7% | |

Jordan presuming that Jordanian cial assistance as pledged at the Baghdad summit of 1978.

In the second clause the budget report refers to the beginning of the economic crisis and outlines Jordan's sufferings since the mid began to shrink and the demand on Jordanian workers receded and when unemployment began . of debt service. .. to make itself felt as the Jordanian expatriates' transfers dropped coupled with a decline in Arab financial aid

All these factors led to an increased pressure on the budget and the balance of payments. government's continued drive to promote economic development

referred to in the second clause overdraft basis. will be removed or changed. The government has thus resorted to borrowing from international monetary markets which led to an increase in local demand, a drop in the Jordanian expatriates' transfers and Arab assistance and an increase in the country's fore-cent. ign financial commitments which led to an increase of pressure on the budget and the balance of payments

In the third clause the report lot of difficulties, most important of which was a decline in the growth rates, an increase in the margin of the budget, deficit and the balance of payments and the depletion of the country's foreign currency reserves.

4- The fourth clause clearly reflects the government's realisaunsurmountable difficulties that could only be addressed through rearranging priorities in the country's economic policies in general. Based on this view the govern-

ment took a number of measures as of the middle of 1988. These included the floating of the Jordanian dinar's rate of exchange, which consequently led to its devaluation against foreign currencies and prompted the government to freeze all government expenditure in 1989 and to impose further limitations on the monetary policies. 5- In the fifth clause the budget

report speaks of a decrease in the Jordan dinar exchange rate which reached 31 per cent by the middle of 1988 (one dollar for every 447 fils) and another drop early in 1989 when the dinar's exchange rate was fixed at 540 fils against the U.S. dollar. This was followed by another decline in the rate of exchange by 13 per cent, which led to the closure of the money changing offices inde-

This caused a sharp rise in prices except for the food supplies and the oil products. 6- In the sixth clause the report speaks of the government's mea-sures designed to stem the sapping of the foreign corrency reserves by imposing a protectionist policy and by reducing imports of unessential commodities.

7- In the seventh clause the report refers to the government attempts to reduce the deficit in the 1989 fiscal budget by reducing public expenditure, increasing revenues through imposing taxes on

Two questions draw one's and economic development in hotels and restaurants and air tickets and by imposing increased expatriates' transfers will con- fees on work permits for nontinue along with the Arab finan- Jordanians and also increasing the tax on Jordanians travelling by air, improving the income tax collection system.

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But these measures proved to be ineffective due to a drop in customs revenues resulting from 1980s when the export markets a ban on imports and also due to an increase in the installments on foreign debts and the rising cost

Hence the budget report expected a slight drop in the budget deficit estimated at 0.7 per cent. 8 in the eighth clause the report states that the government was determined to pursue stringent monetary policies in certain 3- Third clause refers to the areas. It said that credit facilities have been restricted by limiting the commercial banks authority with the hope that the difficulties to grant such facilities on the the

The Central Bank of Jordan banned banks from offering credit facilities with foreign currency collateral and the commercial banks compulsory reserve deposited with the Central Bank was raised from 6 per cent to 9 per

The government also fixed the interest rates and floated the interest of deposits in June 1988 and raised the rate of interest on borrowing from eight to 10 per points out that 1987 witnessed a cent. The Central Bank also raised the rediscount rate from 5.75 per cent to 7 per cent and 8 per cent in September and De-

cember of 1988 respectively. The Central Bank began offering incentives designed to attract deposits in foreign corrency by offering higher ceilings of deposits for local citizens and at the tion of the increases in the same time maintained policies of budget's and balance of trade providing facilities and incentives deficits and that it was facing to expatriates through lifting all restrictions on their foreign cur-

rency accounts. 9. The ninth clause on the budget refers the government's belief that it has taken all the required measures to help rectify the situation and would continue to follow these policies and other economic reforms in order to overcome all imbalances in the national economy. But the government realises the difficulty in reaching the aspired growth in the medium term by solely relying on national efforts. In the light of this situation the government has now resorted to a medium term economic readjustment policy in cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank. The government also is determined to resort to other countries to request help to overcome the present difficulties encountered in the course of the restructuring

programme.
10- In the tenth clause the budget report presents the government's aims to be achieved from implementing the restructuring programme between 1989 and 1993. This was represented in raising the rate of growth in the economy within a relative period of price stabilisation, an improvement in in the budget and the balance of payments and the achievement of a four per cent of real growth rates in 1992 compared to minus two per cent in /. 1988. This can be done through granting incentives for investments and rebuilding confidence in the national economy.

(Confinned on page 5)

Draft budget realistic, but fails to quantify dimensions of economic crisis

This clause states the government's intention to revise all its previous pricing policies, espe-cially those related to water and the subsidy on wheat production.
It intends to do this after holding consultations with the World

This clause also refers to the government's determination to reduce the general budget's dependence on loans from commercial banks and to further restrict credit facilities to the private sector and to control expenditure at the public organisations. This aims to reduce the rate of infistion from 14 per cent in 1989 to 7 per cent in 1993.

11- The eleventh clause speaks of the government's determination to adopt proper measures to achieve a stability in the balance of payments in 1993. This can be done through encouraging exports, stimulating tourism, curing imports and adopting a flexible policy in exchange operations. 12 and 13- The report in these two clauses refers to the government's attention to reducing deficit in the general budget reaching 20 per cent in propor-tion to the gross domestic product for 1989 compared to 23.7 per

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cent in 1988. The government also expects a reduction of the deficit to reach 17 per cent in proportion to the gross national product for 1990 through increasing revenues and suppressing expenditure.
In this respect the report indi-

cates that the government plans to create a consumption tax and to revise the taxation system in general with the purpose of reforming this system through the addition of the value added tax. This clause refers to the govern-ment's request from the IMF to dispatch a mission specialised in financial affairs to visit Jordan between June and July of 1989 to present recommendations by the end of September 1989 and to co-participate in preparing the

1990 budget. 14- In the fourteenth clause the report refers to the huge government expenditure in proportion to the gross national product, reaching nearly 50 per cent, which is in excess of 80 per cent over the current expenditure and exceeding revenues by 40 per cent. This indicates that the government spending was covered by borrowing and foreign aid. This clause also indicates that the government was aware that increa in expenditure should be less than rates of growth in the gross

15- The fifteenth clause refers additional subsidy on essential commodities by ID 38 million. considered as an assistance to the poor sector in the society to protect it from the effects of the severe austerity programme. This clause also refers to the government's attempts to direct its assistance to the needy groups in more selective manner.

16- The sixteenth clause outlines the government's projects which the report says are being well managed and that most of them are yielding good returns. This clause also refers to the government's initiative to conduct a revision to its projects with a view to increasing their contributions to the general budget.

According to the report, projects that sustained losses will be re-examined with the purpose of being steered properly to achieve their purpose.
17- The seventeenth clause en-

tails detailed briefing on steps to be taken by the government to deal with the deficit in the budget. This is to be through imposing a strict control over borrowing by government institu-tions during 1989 and 1990. 18- The eighteenth clause re-

flects on the government's efforts to encourage savings on the part of the public, improving allocations of funds for projects and granting banks freedom to adjust their interest rates.

19- In the nineteenth clause the report refers to a deficit in the current balance of payments as the main target of the restructuring programme.

The government aims to reduce the deficit here in proportion to the balance of psyments from six per cent in 1988 to five per cent in 1989 and three per cent in 1990.

To achieve this goal, the report refers to a host of policies which entail giving incentives to exports, tourism and, rationalising imports, diversifying markets which import national products, creating new channels to finance exports and reforming the cus-

toms system. 20- The report in this clause speaks about sharp reduction m the value of the lordan dinar during 1988 and 1989.

The report reflects the government's belief that this reduction has now given incentives for exports, and that the government believes there is good prospect for stabilising the dinar's exchange rate in the near future. 21- In this clause the report cent.

refers to the government's com-mitment to follow a wase policy in managing debts and reducing problems constrains from servicing foreign debt. This can be done by fixing the ceilings for short and maximum term betts.

-22. In this chase the govern-ment refers to the need for foreign assistance, as additional resources, and also refers to reschedeling of debts to governments and commercial busics. The gov-orancest hopes that the rescheduling of debts will be on easy

23- In this clause the government pledges to retrain from doing the following:

1- Imposing or increasing restrictions on payment, trans and international exchanges. Applying multi-purpose system for foreign exchange rates.
 Concluding bilateral pay agreements not in harmony with

the seventh clause of the agreement with the IMF. 4- Imposing new restrictions on

suports or increasing restrictions for the propose of adjusting the ba-

In the light of the clauses in this report, the government submit-ted to the IMF a request for stand-by credit for 18 months of 60 million special drawing right units corresponding to \$80 mil-lion, in addition to a compensatory loan of \$40 million.

In the light of this agreement, a total of \$1,300 million worth of installments, joans and interest for 1989-1990 are due to foreign committee and until the middle of 1991 to commercial banks have been rescheduled. Rescheduling is for a period ranging from 10 to 11 years after a grace period of five to six years.
THIRD: Cost of living:

Available figures indicate an affation of over 25 per cent in 1989 is expected to rise by 12.5 per cent in 1990 over 1989 figures, and by seven per cent in 1993 over the 1992 figures. Needless to say that the rise in the cost of living in Jordan covers a basket of services and commodities peeded by the consumers including housing, transport, food, clo-thing, medicine and education.

The cost of these commodities vary and the cost of imported commodities rose more than that of the local products because they are paid for with expensive foreign currency. But on cannot help noticing that the cost of living has risen more than expected and beyond the stargin of increases in the rate of exchange of foreign

This prompts one to conclude that there are other behavioural reasons behind the souring cost of living, like monopoly. The rise in prices has created a chaos that cannot be justified in economic terms alone. This conclusion of course requires evidence and proof in figures, and requires further study.

The house has entrusted the financial committee to study this issue with the government to find

FOURTH: Consumption: It is clear that the government's economic philosophy and solutions for problems are based on consumption and the need to bridge the gap brween gross domestic product (nearly ID 1,700 million in 1988) and the level of expenditure which reached 170 per cent in 1989. Of this, 103 per cent went to con-sumption by the private and public sectors, 26 per cent to investments by the two sectors, 41 per cent payments of foreign debts, which means that the remaining gap without paying interest is 29 per cent. The economic adaptation programme is expected to reduce this gap to 19 per cent in proportion to the gross national product of 1993 of which 92 per cent consumption in the two sectors and 27 per cent investments.

It is clear here that the volume of consumption is the main hordle in the face of saving necessary funds for investments and that any reduction is consumption beyond 92 per cent is bound to steer savings towards investments

and more jobs.
FIFTH: Public expenditure in the budget:

The state's expenditure in the last 10 years, 1980-89, reached more than ID 8 billion spent according to the following: JD 3 billion current expenses, JD 2 billion armed forces expenses. JD 3 billion capital and development expenditure, which includes the payment of installments of loans

and interest. The sources for expenditure came from:

Local revenues JD 4.25 billion. foreign assistance JD 1.5 billion, ioans 1.5 billion, accumulative deficit ID 500 million.

We notice from these figures that the citizens of Jordan contribated towards covering half the expenditure (52 per cent) while the loans covered 18 per cent, the foreign assistance 22 per cent, thus leaving a deficit of 8 per

Loans are considered as accumulative deficit and therefore the real deficit is 26 per cent, which is more than one quarter of the total expenditure or over JD 2 billion and this does not include

armament spending. For this reason the committee should give its attention to the deficit and to reduce the 1990 expenditure by JD 15 million and thus the deficit has dropped to JD 184 million down from JD 199

Sixth: The financial committee's report on the 1990 draft

1- Classification of the budget: a. A positive development occurred to the budget report because it has been classified in accordance with the internationally recognised standards projectng expenditure, and revenues in different chapters from financing. Thus financing through horrowing and assistance is no more dered as revenue as was the case before. This deserves appre-

b. The committee would have liked to see the budget report include separate chapters dealing with development regions in Jordan in addition to the present

classification system. c. The committee would have liked to see the report containing separate classification of sectors. Therefore, the committee recommends that the House demand from the government that the 1991 budget be worked out on the basis of clauses a, b and c.

2- Comprehension of the The budget report was confined to ministries and institutions affiliated to them but the other public organisations which have semi-independence finan-cially and administratively like universities, Royal Jodanian, the

Railway Corporation, the National Medical Institution, the Public Transport Corporation, are not covered in the budget. Such process can only limit the usefulness and the aims of the budget, since restricting the budget to only less than two thirds of the state's activities means that any decisions will only affect part of the government's establishments, which in turn can only obstruct the economic reform process. In addition we regard the process of keeping these institutions out of the reach of

Parliament as a violation of the Constitution. Therefore, the committee recommends that the House decide to introduce an amendment to law number 39 of 1964 which provides for the drawing up of the national budget. The new provisions should state that the budget of any institution in the country must be approved by the House's financial committee. This should cover funds like those administered by the armed forces, the merchants fund at the Ministry of Supply, education tax at the Ministry of Education...

3- The budget's addenda: It is unconstitutional to spend money from any appendix attached to the national budget before it is approved by Parliament and, therefore, the committee recommends that the House reject any draft law on appendixes attached to the budget law if spending was done in advance

starting from this year.

The government should always ask the House in advance to assign an appendix to the budget and no spending should be done before the draft law is approved. 4. Classifying the budget: An improvement has been achieved in the process of classifying the budget into expenditure, capital, and current spending; like clauses which assign spending for munici-palities. But we consider certain functions within the capital projects as current expenditure and it is desirable to reconsider the classification of the budget draft for

5- Assessment of revenues and

financing:
The committee considers the government's assessment of revenues as realistic and there had been no exaggeration. The committee would like to present the following remarks:

a. New loans: the local revenues are JD 694 million while expenditure is JD 1,105 million. This shows the results in a JD 411 million gap which will be covered by financial assistance totalling JD 160 million, and from installments paid to the government on internal loans which total JD 50 million, and external loans due to the country totalling ID 20 million. The committee considers that it is its duty to draw the House attention that the government is borrowing a new loan totalling JD 250 million and that part of the loan will be used to pay back installments on previous loans totalling JD 68 million and that part of the revenues will be used to pay back external loans totalling JD 135 million. This means that, altogether, the country will be paying JD 203 million

in installments of debts and debt

Therefore the difference between what is borrowed and paid back in debt services in 1990 will be JD 47 million.

Internal loans, this year will be confined to JD 33 million. To give the House an idea we refer to the internal debts of 1987 which exceeded JD 255 million. in 1988 nearly JD 309 million and in 1989, JD 84 million.

As the debt service on internal loans is JD 60 million then the net payment of debts totals JD 27 million. Therefore, we consider internal borrowing is a step in the

right direction.
b. New Arab financial assist-

The budget estimates Arab assistance to be JD 152 million compared to 253 million tast year. The JD 152 million assistance represents only 65 per cent of the expected assistance since the rest goes to cover armament. Therefore, the expected assistance is JD 230 million of which JD 78 million will go to armament. Any extra assistance should be used to cover the accumulated deficit in the military armament fund which now stands at ID 513 mil-

c. Revenues from taxes on income and profits:

There has been an increase in tax revenues as a result of amendment to the income tax law and the profits made by the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company. The committee considers that an added burden from taxes has now resulted from profits affecting individuals (33 per cent increase) and the employees sector, nearly 13 per cent. This is an added burden in light of the economic situation.

d. TV sets licences: A tax on TV set i being collected on each electricity meter whether the subscriber owned a television set or not. The committee sees that this tax should be confined only to those who own television sets. The minister of finance has displayed understanding in this issue and promised to amend the system. e. Revenues on telephone

The committee recommends that the government conduct a study aimed to reexamine the charges on telephone calls through cooperation with other countries and in the light of availability of hard currency. The committee recommends the cancellation of official phones at officials' homes.

f. Revenues of the Jordan Investment Corporation:

These revenues totalled JD 5 million only resulting from the operations of the corporation which has a capital of JD 252 million. The committee recommends a reconsideration of the the shares owned by the government, especially in the hotels sector, and recommends that the government invest in-stead in productive projects so as to create new jobs. The committee also recommends that the government control expenditure by the public share holding companies and end overspending and corruption.

6- Assessment of expenditure: Assessment of expenditure was

Subsidy on food supplies is projected by the budget to be JD 60 million, but the committee believes that it will exceed this figure.

The committee would like to

point out the following: a. Revenues from pension premiums amounts nearly to JD 13 million and the expenditure on pension reaches JD 83 million. In view of the gap there is need for a serious study to bridge it. This should be studied with due consideration to the interests of

the civil and military pensioners. b. Civil service spending amounts to JD 218 million, current spending on armed forces and civil defence and public security is JD 254 million. This clearly is an indication of the huge burden shouldered by Jordan, although military expendi-

ture does not include armament. c. The government pays J D 5 million annually in rent, and pays ID 5 million for electricity and fuel. These figures require deep study with the purpose of finding ways to stop wastage.

d. The cost of research and study amounts to JD 8.5 million. most of which are engineering designs. Spending on these studies amounted to JD 25 million over the past three years. Most of these studies have been awarded to foreigners.

7- Capital and development spending: The budget figures show that

allocations for capital and development projects are as fol-JD 151 million for capital projects financed through internal

JD 90 million for development projects financed through loans.

JD 12 million loan for the Cement Company to pay back part of its debt totalling JD 253

Most of the major part of the spending goes to the capital or semi-capital projects, and in most cases they are non-developmental projects. The loan to the Cement Company is not for development. What remains for development is JD 90 million or nearly 8 per cent of the budget. This is a major

weak point in the budget. The figures display a negative reflection of the real development growth expected this year and also the employment possibilities expected from (vnestments

by the public sector. The committee has made some changes to the capital sector of the budget so as to give it a development character. The committee realises that an increase in allocations for development will increase the deficit margin and for this reason the committee has approved the allocations for the capital and development sectors in the budget.

8- Reducing expenditure as proposed in the draft budget. The committee recommends

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43/Custo

71/1 Education

82/1 Radio & TV

41/Finance

25/1 Justice

21 Lower H.

23/1 Public Security

A. Current expenses (in thousands of dinar-

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(A: IUI

(A) 105

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(A) 108

(A) 109

(B) 201

(B) 213

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C (5)

213/7

213/3

(A) 103

C/213

(A) 304

B. Capital expenditure: (in thousands of dinars)

The committee recommends cuts in the capital expenditure as

1113

210

cuts in the proposed exenditure committee has noticed that the within the same chapter as fol-

Nine: Public organisations:

The committee is of the view that many public organisations should be reexamined so as to study their administrative and financial situations. Many of these organisations conduct similar function and some have became obsolete.

Therefore, there is urgent need to study these organisations to merge them or cancel some of them so as to avoid dual work and wastage of funds.

Example of organisations that can merge: The Agricultural Credit Corporation the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation and the Urban Development Corporation with the Housing Corporation. Examples of organisations that can be cancelled. Jordan Valley Authority which can be incorporated with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. and the Aqaba Region Authority which can be incorporated with the Aqaba Municipality. The

Suggested Reduction

alles action or increase

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or shifting it to other clauses Jordan Valley Authority has made some excesses in its functions which led to further burdens on the treasury. This authority has had right to borrow from outside sources through the Ministry of Planning and this prompts the committee to recommends that the House demand an amendment to the law to make any horrowing subject to the

Ministry of Planning alone.

mends the cas of the National M ... institution be reexamined of the as role in health sector incorporate

The communed thanks Saudi Arabia, Ruwait, Iraq, the United Arab Enurates, Oman, Quin Dubai for thin appoint to Joned appreciata a to Lis Majesty King Hussein for his relentless efforts to serve the country

| Chap. No. | Clause | Original affectaion | | Reduction or increase |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
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| • | 503/A | :0 | | 10 |
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| SK2 P. Works | A 507 3 | 1 750 | 2.540 | (450) |
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| | (B) 4023 | 50 | 25 | 25 |
| | (C) 402 | 450 | <u> 2501</u> | 25 |
| 643 J.V.A | 2 C 503 | 400 | 348) | 100 |
| 73/2 Health | 410.1 | 600 | 2(a) | 400 |
| 842 Youth | (A) 507.5 | 300 | _ | 200 |
| 942 C Aviation | 507 S | 100 | _ | 100 |
| P.S. Proposed cu | ts in expend | iture totals: | 15,134,00 | D. |

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Petra Bank acquires 7 more NCR ATMs



Mr. Said Shugom and Mr. Richard Walsh

AMMAN - The NCR corporation has recently undertaken delivery of seven new Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) to Petra Bank. These machines are of type 5085, the most advanced type of the NCR ATM collection, thus bringing the total number of ATM machines which Petra Bank presently owns to 17.

Richard Walsh, resident manager of NCR, paid a visit to Petra Bank and met with Said Singoni, ATM project manager, to discuss the final details of the installation plan,

Shugom stated that the installation plan could commence immediately and that the ATM machines would soon be operative, thus bringing to completion Petra Bank's comprehensive ATM network "Lail Nahar", to become the largest ATM network in Jordan. This network is the only local one connected to Visa International's network comprising 33,000 machines distributed worldwide

Foreign Visa cardholders wishing to use their Visa cards

in Jordan will be able to access the "Lail Nahar" network in Jordan to obtain fordanian dinars against U.S. dollars at the official rate.

The new "Lail Nahar" ATM network will be expanded to include Irbid, Agaba and Zarka. Shugom added

Deputies demand establishing system of accountability, propose alternative courses to remedy economic ills

Yaqoub Qarrash

Deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yaqoub Qarrash addressed the House by underlining the immense economic problem Jordan is facing at the moment as a result of ill-planning and poor political, social and economic and defence

They criticised the various systems governing the economic and social and political life in Jordan and said they had been laid down by former colonialists to serve their own purpose. They said that had these policies been useful for Jordan, the country would not be facing critical problems and a lack of readiness to counter any

The country is weaker than ever before and its economic and social systems are in disarray thanks to those who had been giving empty promises to the people who are now faced with

Referring to the 1990 budget, Shbeilat and Qarrash said one can notice that what has been allocated for capital expenditure far exceeds amounts allocated for development projects. They said in a joint paper that the govern-ment last year borrowed an additional JD 350 million only to aggravate the debt situation in Jordan. The government cannot maintain the level of debts due on Jordan by the end of 1990 at the same level of that by the end of 1988 as it had said in the budget report, because of the accumulating debts and services on them, and due to the government's latest borrowing of extra JD 350 million, they added.

Since the creation of the emirate in Jordan no government had yet taken a real and serious effort to deal with the recurrent deficit in the country's balance of trade. They noted that the highest rate was registered between 1981 and 1985 when it stood at JD 824 million. The 1990 budget does not show any figures about the operations and the deficits in the semi-independent institutions like Royal Jordanian (RJ), which million. They said that RI is now making preparations for selling one more of its planes, and commissioners are out in the markets trying to conclude the transaction, they said. They called on Parliament to take responsibility in this matter and to hold investigations into such questions as who will benefit from such transactions. Shbeilat and Qarrash said that RJ together with other organisations have sustained a total loss of JD 820.9 million along with the armaments fund which is indebted by half a million dinars. Lack of supervision over such institutions, they said, has been a grave mistake which must be corrected.

Shbeilat and his colleague criticised the government's policy of retiring persons at an early age and said that the total amount paid to the pensioners as included in the budget stood at JD 83 million, accounting for nearly 16 per cent of the total current expenditure.

Referring to defence expenditure Shbeilat and Qarrash said that as Jordan is a country with meagre resources guarding the

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defence should be initiated so as to attain national objectives because defence in the traditional sense is impossible in view of the huge cost.

They said in their view there was no other way to defend the country except through arming the people with all types of light arms which can be produced by the armed forces workshops and

ance in Lebanon which constituted only members of the public who were able to confront Israel's military power. Lebanon's regular forces in their weak position were not match to any of Israel's aggressions on Lebanese territory, and it was left to the people to resist invasion.

A change in the defence strategy, in Jordan Shbeilat and Qarrash said means conquering the internal enemy represented in excessive consumption and is bound to bring about a total change in social values and bring unity to the country. What Jordan needs he added is a new economic and military strategy that will unite the people who should at the same time give more attention to agriculture and light industry, transforming each settlement into strong fortress.

Ahmad Al Kofahi

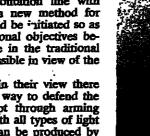
contained no plans for replenishing the gold reserves at the Central Bank of Jordan or retrieving the stolen funds which. have been smuggled to banks abroad.

vide new measures designed to control the semi-independent institutions and neither did it make assessment of these organisa tions' and public share holding companies' profits.

utilise them in useful and productive projects.

2- That all persons in responsible positions give extra care in handling public funds. He criticised those who squander funds to serve their own selfish interest. wasting millions on vehicles,

public spending.
4- That funds be placed in the hands of those who can safeguard them, and that the government put an end to the behaviour of the rich who squander funds on festivals, recreational activities and parties which benefit no one.



They cited the popular resist-

Deputy Ahmad Al Kofahi (Irbid) attacked the draft budget for being traditional and which, he said, does not rise up to the level of the present critical situation in Jordan, a country plagued with unemployment, soaring prices and poverty affecting a large sector of society.

Kofahi said the draft budget

Nor did the draft budget pro-

Kofahi, who is member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, called for institutionalising Islamic values in production and in achieving social justice. He sug-

1- That the government and people retrieve their billions of dollars in Western nations and

furniture and other matters. 3- That the government should end all allowances given to officials as rewards, per diems, and others so as to tighten control on

5-That the rich should help the Jordan's needs of light industrial



Speaker Suleiman Arar and deputies consult each other during Sunday's session of the Lower House (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

poor by paying zakat (alms to the

6- That measures be taken to discourage people from hoarding gold and silver without benefit to their society.

7- That strict penalties be imposed on those who receive bribes in their dealings in public business and those who are in responsible positions who encourage corruption like favouring certain contractors in tenders for

Referring to the draft budget, Kofahi called on the government to follow the following steps to reform the economy:

1- The country's debts: The government should stop borrowing more money from any source, should cancel all loan agreements, and resist any pressure from the debtor countries 2- The government should take

measures to provide funds for paying debts by: a) Questioning officials about their wealth and giving rewards to people who can come up with

information leading to exposing manipulators of public funds. b) Introducing legislation forcing those who smuggled their money abroad to return it to country.

C) Introducing a law to force people to pay zakat (alms to the

d) Imposing a special tax for the national construction effort to be imposed on banks, companies, the rich and the expatriates.

e) Dispatching Jordanian delegations to Arab and Islamic countries to raise funds and help Jordan confront Israel's expan-

f) Ending the present system of interest on loan and adopting the Islamic system.

g) Reducing current expenses in all projects and adhering to austerity.

In dealing with the question of unemployment, Kofahi said that the government can help end the problem by initiating productive projects like helping the Ministry of Agriculture to promote the livestock and agricultural wealth. He said that the Ministry of Industry and Trade should lead the way for the universities, the Royal Scientific Society, vocational training centres and armed forces workshops in producing all

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products which can be developed n the future.

Kofahi called on the natural resources authority to double its efforts in exploiting mineral re-sources and to search for oil and natural gas.

On current expenditure, Kofahi called on the government to increase the salaries of low-income groups and urged the government to link wages to the cost

He urged the government to

cut expenditure on the military

sector and to turn the major part of the intelligence service to other offices and institutions. The deputy expressed the view that the government subsidised

commodities are benefiting the rich more than the poor people. He said subsidy should be made to benefit the low income groups only and that the government should turn the rest of the funds to the National Aid Fund which helps the needy people. '

Fu'ad Khalafat

Deputy Fu'ad Khalafat of Tafileh running Jordan's economy must: have technical and specialised capabilities. Furthermore, they should be sincere, just, and truthful. On this basis, I demand that the government reconsider officials and leaders who will lead this country and extricate it from its current crisis." He also called for improving general services in Tafileh Governorate.

Yousef Khasawneh

Deputy Yousef Khasawneh from the Irbid Governorate told the House that the difficulties which Jordan is facing at the moment as a result of unemployment, debts, bad educational levels and soaring prices are only symptoms of the real illness which can be summed up in corruption that dominated the previous adminis-

He said that corruption and ill administration in the past years presented themselves in:

1- Favouritism and nepotism, with all the important positions given to particular groups who benefited at the expense of the

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2- The previous administrations more often than not placed the wrong man in the wrong position. Placing the right person in the right position would help solve many of our problems.

3- People in responsible positions in the previous administrations lost all values and did not feel ashamed in trespassing on people's dignity and in depriving people from their freedom and their property; and finally were not deterred by any force from stealing public funds and the

4- People in key positions who made a name for themselves abroad came to Jordan to assume important positions only to abuse power and to exploit people and their country. They pillaged Jordan, fought against the honest and hardworking people and built for themselves, a glory. He said that Jordan boasts that it can carry out heart transplant operations at a time when many of its people lack proper vaccination against common diseases, and has todate failed to deal properly with such diseases like measles,

He said that Jordan has been building a glory in the world of civil aviation without possessing a single aircraft. In this it has incurred huge debts which the people of this country are now forced to

Why should our national air carrier spend nearly a JD 1 million on a boat that cruises the oceans carrying eight women, all foreigners and have no relation with this country whatsoever. Khasawneh said that values in Jordan collapsed before the dinar because stealing was strife and corruption was unabated.

The deputy proposed that as a first step there should be a good clean up of the governing admi-nistrations, and "we should first place the right man in the right place and remove all those under suspicion to be replaced by honest people with high qualifia-

Khasawneh called on the government to give more attention to protecting public funds, and urged it to request Arab countries that used to provide financial assistance to Jordan to give Parliament detailed statements on

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and to whom they went. He said that this is the demand of the largest sector of the masses in Jordan who now realise that a large section of these funds went to a group of people who spent it on their gambling in Europe and America and on their own pleasure and on building palaces and villas. He called on the government to question all those who amassed wealth to explain, and give account for their actions.

Ahmad Qutaish

Ahmad Qutaish (Madaba), a member of the financial committee of the House, said "the dangers facing us, especially the economic threats, can only be countered through Islam. The deputy paid tribute to His

Majesty King Hussein, who, he said, "had more vision and intelligence than those who wanted to continue our earlier way of life." Outaish called for building

trust between the citizen and the this trust we will not be able to face the future." Jordan should have adopted

corrective economic measures years ago, he said. The government should cooperate with Parhament to clarify all facts and "punish all those responsible, even those who are still in office," he added. Qutaish outlined several mea-

sures which, he said, could help address the economic situation. He called for reduced consumption and increased exports, but underlined the need to maintain support for the Kingdom's armed

Issa Madanat

Issa Madanat (Karak) blamed past government's political and economic policies for the Kingdom's imbalance in spending between productive and non-productive sectors. "These governments overspent on service and infrastructure," he said. In addi-tion, he said, there was a decrease in spending on productive projects.

He also blamed "external

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forces, most prominent of which was the success of capitalist countries in exporting their products to developing countries" for the economic problem.

Madanat suggested that the budget address the country's problems through revamping the economic structure, solving the unemployment problem, curbing the rise in cost of living, and balancing foreign debt repay-He said there was a very large

envisaged increase in "direct and indirect taxes" in the budget coupled with a reduction in investments and more focus on spending on infrastructure.

Marwan Al Himoud

Balqa's Deputy Marwan Al Hmoud said that the general budget comes as a statement in numbers complementing the speech from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein and the government's programme. He said that the numbers in the budget imply the nature of the coming period and includes an evaluation for the past in its plans, programme and practices.

As deputies and legislative anthority, Hmond said, we should admit that there are three pressing considerations that control our national march: The first is that "Jordan is the

solution" scheme which is a conspiracy that aims not only at Jordan, but also on the Palestinian issue and the Arab system as a whole. He said that "King Hussein's implications for this subject affirmed that Jordan is passing under pressure for its leading role in defending the land, people and problem of Palestine," and in defending Iraq in its war with Iran, and aimed at its democratic experience. Henceforth, he added, we should exert our efforts in supporting the Jordanian armed forces and the security establishment.

The second pressing issue is the rising cost of living to a limit that threatens the social security, Hmond said.

The third issue, he said, is establishing democracy not only verbally but as a way of thinking and a daily practice. He said that although it is the hardest job to achieve, it is self-immunity that

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guarantees defending the homeland and the regime, while at the same time it guarantees the citizen's security, dignity and his voluntary contribution to this

Hmoud said that the general budget is a general programme that the executive authority cannot achieve alone without the full commitment of the constitutional authorities, official and public institutions and the citizens. He said that reducing consumption, increasing savings and investment, reducing unemployment ratios and inflation and decreasing the deficit in the budget and the trade balance, and settling the exchange rates of the Jordanian dinar cannot be accompanied except by translating the national

sense of pride into deeds. Hmoud said that the programme cannot be described only as economic since it has various scopes that deal with all walks of life. An example, he said, if it was a practical necessity for the reform process to reduce the deficit in the budget by increasing local revenues, the local revenues will increase simultaneously when the citizen views taxes as a duty, not

Hmoud recommended that the private sector be given an advanced role in the processes of building and investment. He said that it is time to discuss with the government a detailed programme to activate the role of the private sector.

Another issue raised by Hmoud was the problem of water, which he said should be given priority. He warned of the shortage of water in the coming future and asked for holding studies to deal with this problem. Hmoud asked for reaching self-

sufficiency in producing veget-ables and fruits for local consumption and for exportation in order to adjust the balance of payments. He also asked for a solution for the problem of dependency on other countries in securing the national need of

Hmoud also raised Baqaa camp's problems, such as the inadequacy of health services and the United Nation's Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) proc-

Fakhri Kawar Bassam Haddadin Theeb Marji

Deputies Fakhri Kawar, Bassam Haddadin and Theeb Marji jointly presented a paper in which they rejected the government's draft budget after backing their decision with measures they said the government failed to address.

They praised the government's structural adjustment programme but said the draft budget failed to address the social impact of the economic crisis.

Despite the importance of cutting the budget deficit and adjust-ing the deficit in the balance of payments, the deputies said the draft budget "did not tackle important issues such as unemployment, the deterioration in living standards, the widening poverty and the decline in real terms of people's incomes."

The three deputies, who are members of the leftist "Democratic Bloc," said that corruption and mismanagement were "still embedded in our public life," and urged the government to take measures towards developing the judicial system to deal with all

aspects of economic crime.

The completion of the requirements of democratic transition by developing such laws would no doubt contribute to creating a more adequate environment for investment and production," the deputies said. The three Christian deputies said that the government's prog-ranme failed to mention basic

(Continued on page 7



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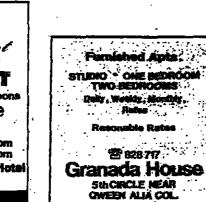
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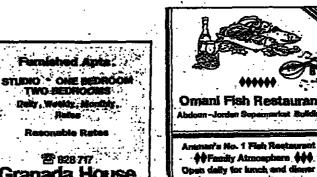


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Deputies demand establishing system of accountability, propose alternative courses to remedy economic ills

Aructural imbalantes in the economy such as the week production base and the predominance of the services sector, in addition to continued dependence on financial aid and external bor-

Kauar (Amman), Haddadu (Zarqa) and Marja (Irhid) said the linance minister's reference in the budget to increasing reliance un internal revenues was no more than "empty rhetonic," and cal-led for the adoption of "a target figure for a gradual but decisive action to channels financial rehance on foreign countries, whether this reliance is in the form of debts or engagements that keed to aid."

The deputies said that low income landamans paid the price for the government's measures that halted further economic determeation during 1989.

"Inflationary prosentes increased after the 50 per cent devaluation of the dinar, salution and tees were frozen while the cast of living material much history than the rate mentioned in the draft budget," they asserted, adding that price increases "reached almost 100 per cent."

They said the government used provisional laws to impose taxa-tion without waiting for Parliament's endorsement and that this Litation increased pressure on low income families.

Talk about achieving social justice in this budget is a form of fiction," they said. "While some of the measures will lead to reducing the profitability of comcanie, and major capitalists, the majority of these measures and the general socio-economic policies will lead to escalating pressuses on low and middle income citizens and to increasing the misery of an important sector of

Commenting on the government's, five-year (1991-1995) structural adjustment program-me, which they said was based on the programme worked out with the International Monetary Funday, the three dputies said this plan was designed by "technocrats who do not consider political. and social emplications. In the con-

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Kawar, Be beeb Marji paper in the government backing

"We still do not know whether this plan will be presented to Parliament for discussion and approval or will be drafted in closed offices."

They concluded that 'since this hudget emanates from the signed with the IMF, and since it is a continuation of the previous economic course..., we find ourselves forced to declare our rejection of the course adopted in the draft budget for 1990, hoping that the government will offer, in the future, a budget that emanates from a new economic and political course that recognises the gravity of the crisis, our national interests and the interests of the struggling sector in

Taher Al Masri

Taher Al Masri (Amman) noted that the budget was prepared long time ago and it, as such. didn't reflect the changes which occurred during the last six

months.

Al Masri said that the IMF economic structural adjustment programme envisages general terms leaving the specifies to the government's judgement and, therefore, he asked how the authorities were distributing the austerity measures fairly among the

He inquired about the policies that the government should take to spur the private sector to bolster the economy and regain confidence since the private sector was more qualified to do the task more efficiently.

The Amman deputy saw Jor-dan's prosperity in the services sector as it brings to Kingdom the much needed foreign exchange. He added that due to the fact that Jordan is mostly an importing country and input in industries require spending the hard currencies, the government should do its utmost to focus on bolstering the services sector and make Jordan a centre in this area.

In further comments, Al Masni said that the parliamentary finance committee failed to specify the amount of subsidies that would be required noting that it was unclear whether the subsidies would increase or decrease.

Masn also inquired about the revenues of gas produced from Al Risheh region which be neither found listed in the budget not in the financial committee's report and asked Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh to present an explanation in this regard. He also reiterated his proposal "to annually link income tax law with the budget law so that percentage

deale with in accordance with Jordan's economic situation."

Maste warned against any possible failures to properly invest the Social Security Corporacon revenues which would place on the Jordanian economy heavy financial burdens

"lorden's economic problems need long-term solutions so that a budget for a single year cannot find immediate solutions but rather be the start. I believe that if the government takes into conrideration the financial commutec's report and the constructive remarks deputies presented, then this will be the sound way towards solving Jordan's economic and financial problems," Masri

Mass concluded by endoming the 1990 draft budget.

Hamman Sared

Deputy Hamman Sacod expressof reservations over the financial committee's decision to cut the Public Security Department's current expenditure allocations

and spending on universities.

The Amman deputy argued that the draft budget did not consultate à "reform programme" and called on the government to restructure its philosophy and concept by rearranging as prionties to confront existing challenges and dangers.

Secon, a member of the "Islamic bloc" maintained that military spending and allocations for food security were necessary to "saleguard our existence."

"A financial strategy based on Islam would be approcusted by millions of our people," he told the house.

Dr. Mohammad Al Hai

Zarga Deputy Dr. Mohammad Al Hai said that the budget's draft law "did not satisfy the people's desire to see Jordan transforming from a consuming market into a producing country."

He said that the capital expenditure in the budget form 31 per cent while the current expenditures form 69 per cent. This, he said, reflects the backwardness in development projects and plans when compared to expenditures in other fields. He said that this phenomenon in the budget law should be changed.

Saad Haddadin (Madaba) said the country's economic problem was a "direct result of the lack of real allegiance to the homeland and the spirit of responsibility while adopting superficial poli-

Haddadin called for "redirecting our attention to our villages and rural areas and to agriculture to build a strong economy." He said investments and production should be increased and more employment opportunities should

The Madaba deputy called for changing the present form of food subsidies since, he said, "they only serve the rich because poor families consume only limited quantities and utilise basic food-stuffs such as sugar and rice with

He opposed proposed cuts in allocations for the Public Security Department and said the department had a key role in ensuring security and stability and in protecting democracy in the country. He called on all Arab countries

designated as aid donors to Jordan under the 1979 Baghdad summit resolutions to honour their commitments in full to

Atel Bloosh

Deputy Atef Broush said the draft budget should have in-cluded a political programme that can enhance the economic reform to enable the country face chal-

lenges.
He noted Israel's plan to absorb thousands of Soviet Jews into the occupied Arab terri-

"Israelis are intent on attracting more than 20 million Jews from all over the world. This requires expansion which will not be towards the sea, but towards the Arab World," Broush said. "Whether it is a declared policy

or not, we are targetted by the Israelis and, therefore, our budget should have reflected this challenge."

The Karak deputy urged the government to adopt a new approach that would achieve military strength and production to protect us from threats."

reality of the government since it He continued that military institutions such as Royal Jordance of the pass of nian, the Jordan Valley Author- Nayef Al Hadid (Amman) thankachieved through well-studied ment to present us with the ernments for stabilising the eco-



budgets of these institutions.
"The debt resulting from the

military aid fund experiment,

which we are now working to

pay, is an experiment that should

not be repeated and there is no

need for secrecy in issues which

pertain to the spending of the

"The budget indicated that tax

revenues this year will reach JD

150 million, exceeding by far last

year's JD 60 million and I hope

that the tax department will not

burden citizens with further

He called for expanding the

independence of the Central

Bank of Jordan and a reconsid-

eration of the policy of work

permits for foreign labour with a

Saleem Zu'bi

Bani Kinana Deputy Saleem Zu'bi said that Jordan's financial

and economic problems are rep-

resented in rocketing prices, un-

employment, an increasing tax

burden, foreign indebtedness, the

slump in the dinar's rate of ex-

change, and the drop in gold and

Zu bi said that it is impossible

for the government to fulfil its

promise to solve the economic

crisis and at the same time shoul-

der the responsibility of repaying

debts and interest. This, he said.

creates doubts about the govern-

ment's pledges to get out of the

to direct attention in the first place to writing off part of these

debts before going into the pro-cess of rescheduling. This is based on objective and practical consid-

erations including the rise in the dollar's rate of exchange against

the dinar, which almost multi-

plied the size of these debts, and

the fact that Jordan, with its

limited resources and deteriorat-

ing economic situation, is incapable of paying its debts," be

Zu'bi added that the financial

committee's economic correction

"is designed to increase the bur-

dens of direct and indirect

taxes... and to cut expenditure ---

such as freezing salaries and in-

vestment expenditures — in

order to save enough funds

needed to settle debt instalments

even if this could be at the ex-

pense of a low standard of living

and exhausting citizens with in-creasing taxes." Stressing that this plan will "further impoverish

and starve citizens," Zu'bi said that solution lies in settling the

"This cannot be done through scheduling or rescheduling of debts but rather through holding

negotiations with the aim of writ-

ing off all or part of these debts.

Jordan should conduct an inter-

nationally effective role in coop-

eration with a number of inde-

objective," Zu'bi asserted.

bted countries to attain this

symbols of corruption that in-

flicted damage on the national

economy and underlined the

need to restore funds sinuggled

Sultan Al Adwan

Sultan Al Adwan (Balqa) struck the cord of revenues by

noting that most government in-

come was from taxes, fees and

licenses. He said it was dangerous

that government earnings focus

on these areas and should be

expanded to include income from

productive sectors and exports.

Nayef Al Hadid

outside Jordan.

He also called for eradicating

problem of indebtedness.

"It was incumbent (on Jordan)

foreign exchange reserves.

view to limit incoming labour."

armed forces," he said.

taxes," he said.

programmes. I hope our economic problems will not obstruct us from addressing social development and socio-economic imba-

The poverty problem has to be addressed before it turns into an erupting volcano which could destroy us and will be very difficult to control," Broush warned.

Ahrisi Rahim Akour

Deputy Abdul Rahim Akour said he was disappointed with the government's failure to address humanitarian aspects" in the

"If we are looking for the success of our development drive, it is necessary that we concentrate on human being as our first priority," Akour said. "Therefore, I do not think that Jordanians, who have been accustomed to consumerism will be able to change unless we move towards refugating them how to abandon personal interests for the sake of the

He observed that the budget focused on the role of the public sector without engaging "pockets of wealth in society who exploited the devaluation of the dinar toraise prices and make great pro-

Akour noted that while the cost of living increased by 27 per cent, incomes remained the

Salameh Ghwairi

Salameh Ghwairi of Zarqa criti-cised the draft budget for "failing to provide expected and adequate fund allocations" to governorates and districts.

"This means that some governorates will not enjoy any allocations at all in this budget, including the Governorate of Zarga. The Zarga Governorate's share of the gross expenditure, as proposed in the 1990 draft fiscal budget, does not commensurate with its huge size or population," Ghwain said.

Turning to the large number of factories located 'n Zarqa Governorate, Ghwairi urged the governorate erument and Ministry of Industry and Trade in particular "to commit these factories to the duty of contributing to developing local environment and, furthermore, to launch a special charter that organises dealings between the administrations of these factories and the governorates' municipalities so as to promote our society," Ghwairi added.

Jamal Khreisha

Jamal Khreisha (Balqa) underlined the importance of protecting Jordan's national security as the foundations of Arab national security. "All of us should be aware of the threats and dangers facing us and work together," he

"National debt is a national cause of concern; unemployment and higher prices are national issues, therefore, the government has to find suitable solutions to these problems," he said.
He described the budget as

"clear and objective." "The Financial Committee's report on the budget was reasonable and balanced, therefore I agree with the Financial Committee's recommendation to merge some institutions and approve of the committee's recommendation to organise the budget according to regions," he said.

Jamai Shreireh

Jamai Shreirch said the bodget "does not reflect the monetary does not include the budgets of

tion in remittances from expatriates and a decline in exports and investments. He urged the government to continue the policies of adjustments by publicising the necessary information to the Al Hadid then turned to the Kingdom's indebtedness which he said it was far above the

nomy and the Jordaman currency

and for regaining the public confi-

dence after a series of deteriora-

normal limit of \$3 billion for a country. He said that indebtedness in any country should not exceed 40 per cent of gross domestic product but in Jordan it was 300 per cent and, moreover, it exceeded \$2,000 per individual.

The American deputy suggested controlling and reducing the current expenditures through the following means:

1) Not to send delegations to attend conferences abroad and to delegate an ambassador or embassy staff to represent Jordan at such conferences. In very important cases, the government should not send abroad more than three representatives and for a period not exceeding one week. 2) Reduce the number of gov-

ernment parties and receptions to the bare minimum. 3) Cut the number of trainers which the government sends

4) Control the telephone expenses of high ranking officials.
5) Control the transport expenses of government vehicles. 6) Save JD 2 million annually by cancelling the Greater Amman Municipality and returning the counties surrounding Amman

to their former status. Give specialised Jordanian companies the engineering designs which, according to budget, are valued at JD 8.5 million under "research and stu-

Abdul Salam Freihat

Ajloun Deputy Abdul Salam Freihat said that Ajloun district did not get enough attention from successive officials in the govern-

He said that Ailoun, which had its leading role in Jordan's past and was the administrative centre for all the regions in northern Jordan, is qualified to become a

Health services in Ailoun district, Freihat said, are of low levels and that the health situation is still deteriorating. He added that the concerned authorities had specified allocations for building a modern hospital in Ajloun district, and for the surprise of the people the concerned authority bought Al Eiman hos-pital which was founded 50 years ago by a foreign charitable society, without any change in its equipment or cadres.

Freihat said that nobody knows where or how allocations for the hospital and its equipment were

Fawzi Tai'meh

Dr. Fawzi Tai'meh (Balqa) focused on the agricultural aspect of the economy by stressing the food security priority. He con-tended that food security was the key to break away from economic colonialism of world powers and its agencies such as the IMF and the World Bank.

The Balqa deputy said that the udget contained no emphasis on agricultural development... a situation which will keep Jordan a big spender on food imports and food subsidies. Tai meh disagreed with the re-

commendation of the financial committee to reduce the budget of Public Security Department. He called for cutting expenses on government vehicles and for strict controls over all fixed assets in as much as fighting corruption on all levels. On the revenue side he said rich people should contribute more and that poor people should not financially pressed beyond their present hard condi-

Finally Tai'meh stressed the urgent need to attain self-sufficiency by moving more towards productive enterprises.

Nawwal Khawaideh

Nawwal Faris Khawaldeh (Mafraq) chose the Audit Bureau as being the main guardian to public funds and the comptroller on government spending. As such, he urged giving the bureau all the power to play a major role in governing trends of efficiencies or corruption wherever they may be

Khawaldeh highlighted the suffering of citizens from the high cost of living and urged the government to brake inflation and adopt practical measures to re-

duce prices in general.

The Mafraq deputy also called on the government to privatise some public institutions in the fields of transport and telecommunication.

Finally, Khawaldeh, noted that some government institutions rent their premises from the private sector at high clost and be recommended that the government should study this subject and consider building its own premises to be financed by the Social Security Corporation.

Deputy Abdullah Zreigat told the House that the draft budget for 1990 was void of any solution for the existing unemployment problem which is being aggravated every day.

Abdullah Zreigat

Zreigat called on the government to initiate new small productive projects in various parts of the country especially in the rural areas and the badia, to help find work for the people and to stop the movement of people from the country to cities.

Zreigat also called on the government to tighten control on the labour market in Jordan and to substitute foreign and non-Jordanian Arab workers with local people who can do the job and eam a living. The deputy criticised former

national economy and said that and citizens as well."

Jordan's image abroad has become distorted and blurred as a result of the actions of those responsible for planning and the economy.

Zreiqat called on the government to come to the aid of the needy groups in society to help them face soaring prices and the high cost of living. For this to happen, he said, tighter control should be clamped on merchants especially those dealing with food supplies.

In addition, he demanded that the government start looking seriously for new areas abroad where Jordanians can be employed.

Zreigat criticised the draft budget for giving more attention to capital expenditure rather than development projects. He said that the budget did not present a comprehensive and integrated national plan that can help end the economic crisis in Jordan.

Hisham Sharari

Deputy Hisham Sharari of Ma'an Governorate expressed some reservations about the financial committee report. He enquired about the proposal to merge the Agricultural Credit Corporation with the Cooperative Organisation when, the latter a private institution.

"How come we demand cutting budgets of universities while we demand enrollment of larger numbers of students... and how come we demand cutting budget of the Public Security Department at a time we concentrate on bolstering the security organ and raising its efficiency to protect citizens?" Sharari asked.

He also called for restructuring the Aqaba Region Authority so that it would become a centre for "planning and executing all programmes and development plans in southern district.

Sharari also criticised proposal to cut municipalities' budgets stressing that "this will have economic planners for ruining the adverse effect on municipalities

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ACADEMIC

English as a Second Language, Islamic Studies, Arabic studies, Applied Maths and Physics, Computer Studies

Applicants must have several years post-secondary teaching and relevant business / industrial experience. Experience of teaching in English is essential. Initial employment agreements will be for two years and will commence in August 1990.

The Higher Colleges of Technology have been established by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. Instructions of the National students with the exception of Arabic and Islamic studies is in English.

Applications should be in English and include a complete CV detailing education, training, teaching, business, industrial and other relevant experience. A handwritten cover letter should be attached. Applications in Arabic will not be considered.

> P.O.Box 47025 Abu Dhabi **United Arab Emirates**

Applications must be submitted by February 23rd 1990.















Egypt increases oil pipeline transit tolls, plans expansion

.CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Officials have increased by one-fourth the cost of sending oil through an overland pipeline skirting the Suez Canal to the Mediterranean Sea and plan a 50 per cent expansion of its capacity.

Chairman Ibrahim Hamza of the Arab Petroleum Pipelines Co., which owns the facility known as Sumed, did not specify when the higher transit tolls were implemented. But he said they will last "until the end of December", implying a review after-

Effective Jan, 1, transit toils for the canal north of Sumed's eastern mouth on the Gulf of Suez increased by up to 7.3 per cent. At the same time, the Suez Canal Authority's chairman, Ezzat Adel, announced a discount scheme for supertankers that use the pipeline in conjunction with canal transits.

The government's Middle East News Agency quoted Sumed's Hamza as saying the new pipeline toll is \$2.55 a ton.

Sumed officials in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria

DOHA (R) — Sitting on top of

the world's biggest natural gas field, the sparsely populated Gulf emirate of Qatar is trying to decide how to get rich quickest.

The huge gas field stretching

out under the shallow waters of

the Gulf towards Iran should

power and bankroll the emirate

into the next century. But decisions on what indus-

tries to set up and when and

where to sell the gas are proving troublesome for Qatar's policy-

"The decisions...in the coming

six months will effect Qatar for

the next 20 to 30 years," one

Among projects being consi-

dered are expanding a fertiliser

manufacturing complex, building

an ethylene and polythene plant,

setting up a ferro-alloy complex

and establishing an aluminium

After four years of recession,

higher oil prices — oil brings in 90

per cent of the emirate's income

North Field hold the promise of

and the development of the

financial analyst said.

told the Associated Press the old tolls for crude oil going through the 336-kilometre double pipeline were \$1.70 to 2.20 a ton, depending on the type of crude. This

Hamza did not give the new minimum and maximum tolls. His figure of \$2.55 a ton apparently represented the aver-

He said the increase decision "was taien in the light of economic studies, world oil market forecasts and the economics of operating tankers."

The news agency quoted him as saying that more than 50 per cent of Arab oil from producers in the Gulf destined for Europe went through Sumed last year. In all, 36 types of Arab crude oil move through it, he said.

The pipeline runs from Ain

Gas windfall puts Qatar at

'get-rich -quick' crossroads

Bankers estimate Qatar's oil

Despite the recession, develop-

earnings at around \$2 billion last

year, nearly a third higher than

ment of Qatar's infrastructure has

continued apace - albeit some of

it at the expense of local contrac-

tors - and private housing com-

plexes have mushroomed around

Modern roads and flyovers

Doha where most of the 300,000

snake around the capital's marble

and glass skyscrapers in stark

contrast to the barren deserts

which sweep across the rest of the

The gas field represents money

the bank for Qatar but oil

There are so many projects

"If we miss the boat now, it will

industry executives in Doha fear

delays in decision-making could

set back the country's develop-

waiting in the pipeline to be

decided and the gas will be here

next year," a bank executive in

take years to reach the same

point," one oil industry analyst

population live.

meant an average of almost \$2 a

rates has 15 per cent of shares and When the line began operating in 1977, its capacity was 40 mil-lion tons annually. That was doubled shortly afterward.

> Because the Suez Canal accommodates ships with drafts no deeper than 16 metres, the pipeline enables supertankers too large for a loaded canal transit to unload at Ain Sukhna. The oil is pumped through the 1.05-metre

Financial analysts and bankers

in Qatar believe the emirate's

new cabinet, formed last year,

will have a more pragmatic

approach to the pressing econo-

mic decision-making than the old

Qatar was in deficit for four

years after the oil price collapse

in 1986. Due to strict government

expenditure control and cuts in

project spending, the actual gap was small, bankers said.

which runs from April to March

had a 5.6 billion riyal (\$1.5 bil-

lion) deficit, compared to 6.1 billion riyals (\$1.67 billion) the

One controversial method of

controlling spending was delaying

payments to local contractors for

up to a year -- financial sources

said this helped to slow the eco-

nomy and prevented high infla-

But increasing oil revenues and

government borrowing now

reduce the deferred payment

period to three months and even-

tually lift it completely.

The emirate's 1989/90 budget,

guard it replaced.

year before.

Sukhna, 54 kilometres south of

Suez, across the Eastern Desert

to a point just south of Cairo.

There it turns northwest to Sidi

Kreir on the Mediterranean

coast, 27 kilometres west of Alex-

Hamza said Egypt's oil minis-ter, Abdul Hady Kandil, has

approved a project to raise the

pipeline's annual capacity from

the present 30 million tons to 120

The Egyptian government

owns 50 per cent of company shares and almost all its person-

nel are Egyptians. Each of the

governments of Sandi Arabia,

Kuwait and United Arab Emi-

picked up by other tankers or by the original supertanker after transitting the canal empty or with a reduced load.

Hamza said Sumed has turned Sidi Kreir into "a world oil trading centre for the national companies of the Gulf states. Some countries, such as Saudi Arabia, are posting oil prices as delivered

The Ain Sukhna and Sidi Kreir terminals have 13 storage tanks each, and an additional two under construction at each end, Sumed officials said. Each tank's capacity is about 85,000 tons.

Based on a feasibility study, Sumed's expanded capacity will be achieved by building a station halfway along the pipeline just south of Cairo to boost pumping.

Hamza said \$90 million have been appropriated for the station but did not say when construction will begin or when the expansion project will be completed.

Egypt gets 27.5 per cent of pineline revenues in transit royalties plus 50 per cent of net profit under the shareholding agree-

Alba seeks \$560m loan

BAHRAIN (R) — Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alba) has asked a consortium of banks led by Bahrain's Arab Banking Cor-poration (ABC) and Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) to arrange a \$560

million loan, bankers have said. The 10-year facility, the biggest commercial loan in the Gulf for several years, is the first part of \$1.4 billion expansion that will more than double the smelter's capacity to 465,000 tonnes per

Bankers said details of the loan package would be finalised in the next few days and other international banks invited to join afterwards. The loan would probably be signed before the holy month of Ramadan begins in late March. Two other consortia, one led

by Bahrain's Gulf International Bank and London-based Chase Investment Bank and the other by Citibank, had competed for the mandate to arrange the loan.

The ABC consortium includes Manufacturers Hanover, Arab Bank Limited, Riyadh Bank, National Commercial Bank. Bank of Tokyo, Industrial Bank of Japan, Mitsubishi Bank and Sumitomo Bank.

sured opening of public life in tightly controlled Iraq, the gov-ernment recently lifted a ban on foreign travel by Iraqis.

four-megawatt-capacity power plant as part of the needed utili-

ties. Feb. 3 is the deadline for

The gold will be shipped over-

seas by air to be sold on the basis

of competitive bids to refineries

in Europe and the Far East,

The kingdom claims an ancient

gold mining area running in a

crescent-shaped seam on its west-

ern coast, with some saying it was

once King Solomon's legendary

mines. From time to time it tried

to revive the pits, but a serious

The first modern gold mine is

effort began only in 1983.

at Mahd Ad-Dahab area, south-

invited tenders for the setup of a west of Medina, estimated to

company officials said.

has released - for the first time in years — some of the allocation totals for particular sectors.

Iraq's deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Sadoun Hamadi, said earlier this month the main objective of the budget was to curb inflation, conservatively estimated at 40 per cent

Hamadi said the government

more money to cope with the budget deficit, as well as expected

sold by the government-owned enterprises, will lead to skyrock-

of gold ore. Sukhaybarat has re-

serves of approximately 8.4 mil-

SCPM says a number of in-

Ad-Dahab and that exploration

work is already planned for asses-

SCPM was set up in 1988 by the

General Petroleum and Mineral

Organisation, or Petromin, and

Boliden of Sweden mainly to

exploit gold and other metals at .

the Sukhaybarat area, Boliden, a

member of Trellaborg Group, has developed and operated ab-

to company statistics.

sing their potential.

Kuwait, Jordan and Turkey.

Al Shamaa also criticised the government's economic plan for setting the curbing of inflation as

its top priority.

accelerating economic growth as

at brokers Hoare

have reserves of 1.1 million tons out 50 mines in Sweden and other countries since it was established in 1925.

But the Sukhaybarat project dates back to 1983 when Petrolion tons of ore, giving the project a life span of 13 years, according min and Boliden together began exploration work which proved that gold was available in comteresting prospects have been identified in the vicinity of Mahd

mercial quantities. The explaratory drilling revealed that gold ore not only occurred in the previously mined quartz veins but also in granodiorite instrusions associated with

The ore body is so close to the surface that open pit mining methods could be used instead of much more complicated underground mining methods, the offi-

Iraqi economist criticises budget second, and then other objec-

S. Arabia to export gold, silver soon

BAGHDAD (AP) — A top Iraqi economist Saturday criticised the state budget for 1990 as being incapable of boosting growth or carbing inflation — the two main targets set by the government. Professor Humam Al Shamaa

JEDDAH (AP) — Sandi Arabia, the world's leading oil exporter

and possessing a quarter of global

oil reserves, will soon start ex-

porting gold, silver and other

Saturday.

precious metals, officials said

The exports will be from the

Sikhaybarat mine which lies 300

kilometres east of the city of

Medina on the Red Sea, and are

scheduled to start early 1991 at a

rate of 1,500 kilogrammes a year.

The Saudi Company for Pre-

cious Metals (SCPM), a 50-50

Saudi-Swedish joint venture run-

ning the project with a capital of

103 million riyals (\$25 million),

disclosed the export plans as it

wrote in the daily Al Qaddissiva that heavy reliance on deficit financing and an insistence on boosting profits of state-run industries were bound to push inflation higher.

"From details of the budget released so far, it is obvious that no reconciliation can be achieved between the targets of combating inflation, and economic growth,

The article in Al Qaddissiya, which is the newspaper of the Iraqi armed forces, was an un-usual case of an officially tolerated criticism of basic government

In other recent signs of a mea-

The government has not pro-

vided full budget figures, but it

would seek to accelerate economic development, supply more basic goods, maintain the needs of the army and off foreign debts. But Al-Shamaa said the government's reliance on printing etting inflation. He also criticised a government

system that allows Iraqis to import whatever goods they want from abroad by using their savings abroad, as one more factor that would increase inflation.

Most of the goods imported now by using this facility are paid for with Iraqi dinars snuggled to neighbouring countries such as Iraq is expected to make about

\$18 billion from its oil exports in

"It would rather put paying foreign debts as the first priority, tives," he wrote. Iraq's foreign debt is estimated at \$25-\$30 billion.

That does not include an estimated \$30-\$35 billion provided by Sandi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states to prop up Iraq's economy during the eight-year Gulf war. Economists believe the Sandis and their partners will write that off.

Iraq suspended payments on much of its foreign debt during the war. Since the ceasefire it has been negotiating individually with its creditors to reschedule

The government has announced its intention to seek medium and long-term credit. fraq announced earlier this month it plans to pay off \$3 billion of its debt this year and stop all costly short-term bor-

Britain posts record trade deficit

LONDON (R) — Britain has unveiled a record trade gap for

The current account deficit, the widest measure of Britain's foreign trade, rose to £20.3 billion (\$33.8 billion) last year from the previous record of £14.7 billion \$24.5 billion) in 1988, official figures showed.

But the December deficit, which was more closely watched by the financial markets, improved to £1.12 billion (\$1.86 billion) from £1.4 billion (\$2.3 billion) the previous month. The December deficit was the

best for 15 months and compared favourably with market forecasts of around £1.6 billion (\$2.7 bil-

The narrower merchandise trade deficit for 1989 was also a record at £22.99 billion (\$38.25 billion), after £20.83 billion (\$34.7 billion) in 1988 and £10.93 billion (\$18.2 billion) in 1987. Financial analysts said the fi-

gures were good news for the government but not enough to bring about a lowering of Britain's relatively high interest "Even the most cheerless of

people would have to say that these figures are jolly good," said Bill Martin, chief economist at stockbrokers UBS Phillips and

Richard Jeffrey, director of

ment will be extremely encouraged, but it cannot be said that these figures are enough to open the door to lower interest rates." Inflation, currently running at an annual rate of 7.7 per cent,

Govett, said: "I think the govern-

remained a problem, he added. The government said the data showed British firms had performed well in the final three months of 1989 despite high interest rates.

The figures for the quarter provide clear evidence that Britthe current challenging circumstances," a treasury spokesman

prompted the government to push interest rates even higher last year to curb inflation and damp down demand for imported goods. Bank base rates were last raised in October from 14 to 15 per cent after being as low as 7.5 per cent in the spring of 1988. The opposition Labour Party

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COM

said the record annual deficit was grim news for Britain. Finance spokesman Gordon Brown said: "Only the most complacent and blinkered supporters of the gov-ernment would take credit for a ish industry is responding well to monthly deficit above £1 billion (\$1.66 billion) that concludes the worst trading year in Britain's

OECD: Turkey must cut spending

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey must cut state spending before it can bring down its high inflation rate, predicted more than 60 per cent in 1990, the OECD said.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its latest annual report that inflation would continue to plague Turkey due to large public deficits, supply restraints and a lack of productive investments.

The Paris-based "think-tank" for 24 nations predicted that consumer prices would rise by 63 per cent this year, compared with 69 per cent in 1989 and 75 per cent in

"Further steps to limit the central government's access to central bank financing would help to curtail the most important source of structural inflation," it said in

"Announcements of monetary targets appear to be indispensable to... achieve compatibility between fiscal and monetary policies," it noted.

For the first time in Turkey's 66-year-old history, the central bank this month announced a deflationary monetary plan. It also made clear that monetary targets could succeed only if supported by fiscal and economic

The OECD said the structural reform process launched in 1980. helping export-led growth and curing the acute hard currency shortage of the late 1970s, was far from complete.

It also questioned whether the er increases in inflation could a return to normal levels of farm



have a romantic evening with a loved one. What are YOU going to do?"

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Poles to set up private bank

WARSAW (R) --- A Polish businessman has announced plans to set up the first private bank in Poland since World War II. Aleksander Gawronik, owner of a network of foreign exchange bureaux in the West of the country, told a news conference he had received initial permission from the central bank, the National Bank of Poland. He said he expected the finance ministry's approval in the next few days to set up the Poznan Bank-A.G. Co. in the western city of Poznan and hoped to start operations within two months. He said he had put up initial capital of more than 4.5 billion zloties (\$470,000) in the bank which would start by issuing short-term credits to enterprises and would also deal with private customers.

Peugeot, Renault agree to cooperate

PARIS (R) - French carmakers Pengeot and Renault have agreed to begin a joint 1.2 billion franc (\$210 million) research programme to cut pollution from cars. Topics to be studied include reduction of carbon monoxide emissions from conventional petrol engines, alternative fuels such as hydrogen, and electric drive systems. The government would contribute between 450 million and 500 million francs (\$79 million and \$88 million), Industry Minister Roger Fauroux told a news conference.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

1096.7 1107.7 390.6 394.5

116.2 465.7 350.4 107.9 53.0

present mix of policies would gradually reduce the inflation rate and it warned that any furthendanger the targets of a new

five-year development plan.
It predicted growth of the real gross national product (GNP) would recover in 1990, helped by



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee TAXEC RECEL SAURES THE MOST BRUTAL PART OF THAT HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHT. COPILY Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon. esc opium gloat dinghy cobalt A guy who tries to start a business on a shootring cometimes ends up taking this— A GOOD "LACING"

OTS to take action against Bush's son officials, would direct Bush not to engage in any further conflict of

WASHINGTON (R) — The regulator of the U.S. savings industry, rocked by a scandal estimated to cost American taxpayers more than \$150 billion, will take administrative action against President George Bush's son, Neil, charging conflict of interests in decisions he made as a director of failed savings institu-

tion in Colorado. The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) said it would seek a cease and desist order against Bush, a former director of Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association in Denver, which was seized by the government in De-

cember 1988. The order, a less severe sanction than the agency has imposed against other former Silverado

interest, should he ever work at a federally-insured savings institu-

The OTS said it decided to seek the administrative action against the president's son after he announced that he had broken off negotiations with the agency, which had been going on for several weeks. Silverado is one of hundreds of

over the past several years prompted a \$1.59 billion bailout law signed by President Bush last August. At least 200 institutions are expected to become insolvent in the months ahead in addition to the more than 300 that have already been seized, sold or li-

quidated by the U.S. government since August.

To win the cease and desist order, the matter must be heard by an OTS administrative law judge in a process that could take up to a year to complete. If Bush loses, he could appeal.

Bush, 35, one of the president's

exploration firm in Denver, has denied any wrongdoing in connection with his role as a Silversavings institutions whose failures ado director. He resigned his post in August

four sons and owner of an oil and

1988, two weeks after his father received the Republican presidential nomination.

Five other former Silverado officials have agreed to OTS orders during the past few weeks in assessing the that effectively bar them from the of borrowers.

savings and loan and banking

Experts and regulators have cited fraud and mismanagement by savings and loan executives as major factors behind the industry's crisis.

The government seized control of Silverado in December 1988 and subsequently sold it to First Nationwide Financial Corporation. Estimates of the cost of the failure to U.S. taxpayers range as high as \$1.6 billion.

The OTS has been investigating charges that Bush took part in decisions to approve loans to businesses associates.

It said its examiners found Silverado managers were deficient in assessing the creditworthiness



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Christie almost matches world record

fastest he had run nince the 1988

Seoul Olympics when he set a

I've been training really hard.

The crowd here is absolutely bril-

hans. Everything was on my

number one last year, failed to make the final. The Jamaican

♦k%3 0.312 ⇒K0763 ♦0

A .- Thu is not the sort of hand

where you went to consider playing

4-3 major fit. Or where you want

to look for a possible tlam in a

minor. You have more than enough

to contract for game, so bid three no

Q.5 -- Both subscrable, as South you

4452 AB3 (8752 4QM

Partner opens the bedding with three and trules. What action do you take!

A .- Partner's bid shows a balance

hand of 25-27 points. If he is at the

top of his range, you should have play for slam, lavue hum to the par-

ly by raising to four no tramp. He

will pass with a minimum, bid a slam with 27 and look at his inter-

mediates before deciding what to do

Q.5—Both valuerable, as South you

The bidding has proceeded:

Exa

What do you bid now?

North

2 NT Pass

7 AJ93 (A1962 443

Page 1 7 Page

A .- You have excellent support for

partner's suit, but there's really no

point in revealing it. There are not

enough values for slass, and even 11

tricks could be beyond your com-

bined resources. Since you have a

behanced hand and partner has an-

moraced one too, bid three no

South West

The bidding has proceeded: North Fast South West

Page

What do you bid nost?

GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY SREDGE OURS

bok"

Q-1---lioth vulnerable, as South you Q-5-- As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Ray Stewart, world ranked

European record of 9.97 seconds.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) - Lattord Christic fired an carly-season warning shot to riva stunning 9.93 seconds, 190th of a second outside Carl Lewis's world record, to win the 100 metres at the Commonwealth

The time will not be recogn officially due to a tailwand of 3.83 metres per second, almost twice above the legal limit. But the Englishman was nevertheless de-

WITH OMAR CHARGE A TANNAH HIRSCH

+J93 GAER GAS 4516543

A. -You have excellent support for

pariner's first sun, but that doesn't

entale you to go wild. Since those

values were already taken into ac-

count when you made your two-

ther-the response, a bid of two hearts now does your hand full

Q.2-Neither vulnerable, as South

±83 7 Q95 ⊕ AK1972 ±1654

A .- Since partner bid treely, he

opening. You have a reasonably good five-card sun which should be

a source of tricks, and a smattering

of values elsewhere. Invite game by

Q.3-As South, vulnerable, you

+KJ162 TAJ543 1Q196 #7

A .- In support of spades your hand

is worth 14 points, so you want to be

in game. The way to do that is,

strangely enough, to bid four

spades! A jump to three spedes

these days is only invitational

South West

Pess

THE Daily Crossword or Visiters, Vans.

must have a better-than-minis

The bilding has proceeded: North East South W

What action do you take?

raising (q two no trump.

The bidding has proceed

What do you bid now?

North East

1 4 Page

16 Paddy produce 17 Source of

sort of sort 18 Feel one's 20 One of the Johnson

Forward Sound of diamey

28 Lag-puller
28 Lag-puller
29 Glower
35 Greenish hue
38 Kind of been
38 Roast cut

39 Roast cut
40 lisy—
41 Small bird
42 Polity to Tom
43 Other
44 Dough raiser
45 Black tees
47 Univ.
48 Art stand
51 Celmed
55 Movie award
58 From wins
60 A tio-lac-toe
loaer

Cinema

The hidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 Page 3 4 Page

7-4

What do you bid now?

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said he had only been training for the limit. "I'm really pleased," Christie three weeks following a thigh send after bettering his sequinal time of 10.07 speoples that was the

"I knew I didn't have a chance of winning the final so why push too hard." Stewart said.

Merlene Ottey of Jamaica also clocked an outstandingly fast time of 11.02 seconds to win the women's 100-metre title, but when she ran down the home straight at the Mt. Smart Stadium, the wind was even stronger, registering 4.37 metres per second on the trackside measur-

Despite the wind assistance. the performances of Christie and Oftey stood out on a busy day of track and field in which seven other gold medals were decided.

Colin Jackson of Wales, ranked second in the world behind American Roger Kingdom, won the gold medal in the 110 metres burdles in a European and Commonwealth record time of 13.08 seconds when the wind was inside Darren Clark of Australia, who

ran the fastest time clocked by a 17-year-old back in 1983, won his first major championship title after years of injuries and near-

He clocked 44,60 seconds in the 400 metres and received a standing ovation.

The 3,000 metres steeplechase produced Kenya's firt gold as Olympic champion Julius Kariuki came home to win easily from teammate Joshua Kipkemboi. Angela Chalmers of Canada won

the women's 3,000 metres. Jane flemming, who only was included in the Australian team a week before the games, won the

heptathlon gold, There was an emotion-filled performance in the pool, where 15-year-old sensation Hayley Lewis had a rest day in her quest for a record six women's swimming gold medals.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 29, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a day and evening when you will have a strong tendency to feel that everything at going to be exactly the way you want it to be. Others will want to be in your company.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Divide your time today mor, sensibly between social and husiness crests. Home is the place now to entertain your family, friends and

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) It a still not yet the right time to spend much money on social plea-sures. Don't make demands on your family but go along with their

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A trip with a jovial friend now will relieve you of much tension and strain. A present or compliment would be greatly received by voor MOON CHILDREN: (Jane 22 to

July 21) Don't be thrown by someone putting a monkey wrench in your daily activities. Charm your family now by spending the greater part of your time with them. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Rely

more upon close-spunted expens, for ways to best handle your prac-tical affairs. Follow your beart and not your head in dealing with your

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can use an unusual situation at your activities to greatly

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologei, Carroll Righter Foundation advance your interests. Your home now should be the centre for a professional gathering.

> LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good time to obtain neces-sary outside information for your usual activities. Do everyti possible now to get your home in the best possible condition.

> SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novembet 21) You have so many good. inspired ideas for your activities that you hardly know where to start. Show attachment in a direct manner that you understand their

> SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able to do something special now that will greatly delight a friend. You can be happy at home by expresing your own poised harmony.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now a progressive expert gives you the low increasing your money. Do not let an outsider affect your relations with your mate.

AOUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take as many jaunts to interesting places as possible with good friends. Fitch in wallingly to perform joint duties with your PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) Delays in arrival of one from a tance brings chance to be with other close friends, Take your own clap with you to places of amuseirent and have a good time.

2 FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 baths, dining room, sitting room, balconies. All facilities available. 3 minutes walk to Shmeisani shopping area.

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Lendl wins Australian Open men's title

MELBOURNE (AP) - As Australian Open marred by injuries and John McEnroe's stormy exit ended on a sour note Sunday as Ivan Lendi repeated as men's champion when Stefan Edberg quit with a torn stomach muscle. It was the first time in the

Australian Open's 85-year history that a men's finalist quit in the middle of a match.

Lendl led 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 5-2 when Edberg told the umpire he could not continue his match. Edberg said he hurt himself in the last service game of his semifinal victory over fellow Swede Mats Wilander. Edberg, who has had strained abdominal muscles

several times in the past, felt the

pain from the start of Sunday's match "It kept getting worse and worse," he said. "I could only serve at 75 per cent. That wasn't working too well. I was struggling from the beginning. It didn't feel

head, it becomes psychological. And if you continue, you can only make your muscle worse." Dr. David Bolzonello, the tournament physician, said

right, and once it gets into your

Edberg suffered abdominal strain on his left side. "That's where he pulls through on his service motion, I advised him a minimum of two weeks rest," the doctor said. "I think he made the right decision by not

progressing. I think he would have made it worse." West German Steffi Graf beat 18-year-old American Mary Joe Fernandez for the women's title Saturday.

Czechoslovaks Helena Sukova and Jana Novotna won the women's doubles Saturday, beating Fernandez and partner Patty Fendick in two tiehreakers, capping a two-week tournament that

had been plagued by problems. Women's second seed Gabriela Sabatini and Australia's Mark Woodforde were forced from their third round matches with

sprained ankles McEnroe was thrown out from

his fourth-round match for staring at a lineswoman, swearing at the umpire and cracking a racket. Edberg received massage by a

trainer and put ice on his stomach during the final and rubbed his sore muscles several times during changeovers.

"It's not the greatest feeling to win in this way," said Lendl, a Czechoslovak who lives in the United States. "I hope Stefan recovers soon. It's unfortunate, but sometimes things happen this way. He carned on for quite a while and showed great courage. I hope we can come back 12 months from now and slug it out till the end."

Lendl said that despite the result, "a win is a win. Five to 10 years from now, not too many people will remember" that he won by an injury. "It doesn't feel as great as if I had won it fair and square.

Lendl, who received the \$200,000 top prize, said he was surprised that Edberg came out to play knowing he was injured. Edberg received \$100,000

Once Lendl realised that Edberg was hurt, he said he told himself, "hang in there and make him play every point. An injury like that gets worse the longer you play." The only other finalist to retire

in mid-match in grand slam history was H. Roper Barrett, who quit after four sets against Anthony Wilding at Wimbledon in 1911

Edberg, who was forced to retire from the Australian Open with a back injury last year after winning in the round of 16, was in obvious pain from the middle of

the second set on. The trainer worked on him after the fifth game of the second set, when Edberg took advantage of four errors to break Lendl and put the set back on serve at 3-2.

Edberg held serve and pushed

the set to a tiebreaker when he came back from 15-40 in the 12th

But after Edberg took the first two points of the tiebreaker, Lendi won the next six, including one on a double-fault by Edberg, and took the set with a backband passing shot that whizzed down the line.

Edberg double-faulted on the last two points to suffer a break in the opening game of the third set. He fought back from three break points in the third game to hold after five dences. But the injury was clearly slowing him and draining him.

Leadi played well, but not as crisply as he did earlier in the tournament and might not have beaten a healthier Edberg.

Lendl hit an unusually high 17 backhand errors in the first set, 16 in the second sets and 10 in the abbreviated third set. His total of 67 errors compared to 56 by

"I thought if I had a chance to win the second set, maybe I could have worked my way through winning the third set." Edberg

But after dropping the tiebreaker, Edberg said he "knew

there was no way I could finish the match." Lendi, who started a fad

among the other players when he wore a French foreign legionstyle hat for sun protection in previous matches, came out hatless on a cool, overcast day.

Edberg, one of the quieter players on the tour, had one of more boisterous cheering sections as shirtless Swedish men with one letter each of his name written on their chests led cheers for him.

Edberg, broken the first time he served against Lendl, certainly didn't look as though he had any weaknesses in his 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 semifinals victory over Wilander.

Edberg laughed when asked about the turning point in that

Ivan Lendl

"The first point," he said with a smile, adding that he had "one of those days where I almost played perfect tennis."

Lendl might have given the same answer about his 6-4, 6-1. 6-2 victory over Frenchman Yannick Noah.

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For the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the Democratic Socialist Republic Sri Lanka's National Independence on Sunday 4th February 1990. The General Consulate of Sri Lanka in Jordan, has the pleasure to invite all the brothers & sisters of the Sri Lankan citizens living in Jordan, to be aware of the speeches and greetings which will be addressed by H.E. the president of the Republic of Sri Lanka, the hon. prime minister, and the hon. minister of foreign affairs, to the Sri Lankan people on this national day.

Amman

There will be a special record book for registration of greetings from 10:00 a.m. to 13:00 hrs.

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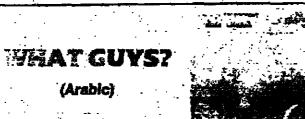
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Demonstrators in Bucharest, Romania, defy a government bas to protest against the ruling National Salvation Front.

Srinagar curfew eased; residents stock supplies

nagar resdients poured from their bomes Sunday to stock up on food and medicine when government troops briefly lifted a curfew intended to stifle a rebellion by separatists.

At least 72 people, mostly protesters defying the curfew, have been killed since it was imposed Jan. 20.

Occasional gunshots, four or five at a time, were heard. But there was no reports of new casualties during the six-hour curfew break

The 24-hour curfew was imposed in a campaign to quell escalating violence by militants who wants Kashmir to secede from predominantly Hindu India and become independent or join neighbouring and Islamic

Private vehicles were allowed onto streets for the first time Sunday since the crackdown, but motorcycles were not allowed to carry riders. Four unarmed air force officers waiting outdoors were killed Thursday by motorcyde gunmen.

State government officials have said repeatedly the situation is under control and the civil administration is still running the government, despite the military presence and rigidly enforced

Residents disputed the report. "The situation is very bad," said one Muslim, an employee of the state government, who

The curfew, intended to confine people to their homes, was lifted at 5 a.m. (2330 GMT Saturday) and reimposed at 11 a.m. (0530 GMT Sunday).

People loaded up on potatoes and onions, but there were few green vegetables and no meat. Little fresh produce has reached this city of one million people since the crackdown.

Residents said the separatists had warned shopkeepers not to sell meat, because the troop deployment in the city was "sign of sorrow" and people should not enjoy themselves by feasting on

Traffic police directed cars and three-wheeled motorscooters at intersections while heavily armed soldiers and paramilitary troops patrolled on foot and in trucks. Foreign correspondents were expelled Sunday from Kashmir.

"For reasons of state security you are to leave Jammu and Kashmir immediately... under the public safety act," said a written notice from District Magistrate G.H. Abbas handed to non-Indian reporters for foreign media at Śrinagar's main

The order was issued later Saturday as India launched a diplomatic offensive to persuade the superpowers and Muslim states that Pakistan is fuelling Islamic militancy in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Pakistan, which has fought two Kashmir Liberation Front.

power-sharing deal

BUCHAREST (R) --- Romania's leading opposition parties, saying they wanted to avoid the threat of civil war, called on the government Sunday to share power.

Spokesman Ioan Lup read a joint statement over state radio as some 6,000 party supporters and a similar number backing the ruling National Salvation Front converged on a square outside the front's headquarters in tense but peaceful rivalry.

The parties say the front, which took over last month after the fall and execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, is monopolising power and should share it with them in the run-up to elections called for May 20.

President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman went on television late Saturday to offer some concessions, but the parties' spokesman said they were ambiguous and did not go far enough.

We don't want civil war, we want civilised discussions so that we can achieve peace and tranquillity to work and live better than hitherto," Lup said.

He acknowledged the parties' rally was unauthorised but said it was not intended to lead to violence. He urged Iliescu to take measures to avoid fights between the rival demonstrators on Vic-

Lup sand Roman and Iliescu had agreed that representatives of the three opposition parties the National Peasants' Party, the

COTABATO, Philippines (R) — About 7,000 Filipinos have fled

their homes to escape fighting

between government troops and

Muslim rebels avenging the mur-der of a Muslim family, residents

The military said eight people were killed, 25 others wounded

and more than 100 houses burned

in fighting which erupted Satur-

day around the southern Philip-

pine town of Pikit, about 900

Evacuees interviewed by re-

porters said the separatist rebels,

estimated by the military at be-

tween 500 and 1,000, seized ab-

out 150 hostages in coordinated

raids in 11 predominantly Christ-

ian villages around Pikit.

kilometres south of Manila.

said Sunday.

National Liberals and the Social Democrats - should meet them for talks, which follow an earlier session Saturday.

He said the parties wanted "to establish the fact that the front will give up (sole) power with the formation of a joint council of national unity on which members of all parties would be represented

The front, whose supporters claim sole credit for the uprising against Ceausescu, has so fai refused such a council.

It has also outraged the opposition by going back on previous promises to stand down after the elections, and has said it will field its own candidates in the

In Victors' Square, troops, tanks and armoured personne carriers guarded the front headquarters, which also houses Romania's Foreign Ministry, and reinforcements were rushed into

Both groups of demonstrators, their numbers far smaller than expected, seemed determined but peaceable, police kept a low pro-

"We are going to sit here until lliescu resigns," said one party supporter. "Prepare the heli-

helicopter which whisked Ceausescu away from central Bucharest Dec. 22, the night of

Thousands flee, eight killed

in south Philippines fighting

Government troops backed

by helicopter gunships and

armoured personnel carriers dis-

lodged the guerrillas in six vil-

lages but five others remained in rebel control, the evacuees said.

Guerrillas of the Moro Nation-

al Liberation Front (MNLF) and

three rival factions are fighting

for Muslim self-rule on Mindanao

island but residents said those

involved in the current fighting

were mostly members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

(MILF), a splinter guerrilla

been in effect in the region since gust attack.

group.

Romania parties seek Rebel Communists form new party in Poland

rebel Communists formed a breakaway Social Democratic Union Sunday, plunging Poland's former ruling party into chaos as it tried to form's new leftist party of its own.

Tadeusz Fiszbach, a prominent reformer, walked out in disgust from a Communist congress late Saturday but returned Sunday to tell the 1,500 delegates he had set up the Union of Social Democracy of the republic.

He made the announcement after the Polish United Workers Party (PUWP), crushed by the Solidarity movement in elections last June and ousted from power in September, failed to disband Saturday as planned.
Instead, delegates voted to

form a new party before dissolving the old one and began a founding congress to establish it. The rebels dismissed the move as trick to keep progressives and hardliners together in a mono-lithic party little different from the PÜWP.

"We can change programmatic statutes and the name of the party but only if we change the people can we be credible," Fiszbach, 54, told the congress Sunday. "A neo-PUWP party has no social chances and no credibility."

"You can't mix fire and water. You can't be a social democrat today when this is what you were fighting against yesterday," he

Delegates sat in silence as the softly spoken Fiszbach, bald and bespectacled, accused the Commutists of leading Poland into

1986 when President Corazon

Aquino took power in Manila in a

popular revolt which toppled Fer-

Locals said the latest fighting

was sparked by the massacre of a

Muslim family in a Pikit village a

few months ago. The killings

were allegedly carried out by a

commander of a militia group

formed by the military to fight

Residents said the militia lead-

er and his men were ambushed

last August by MILF rebels and

the militia chief retaliated by

and Marcos.

WARSAW (R) - More than 100 economic and political crisis after they were installed by Soviet troops after World War II. He

received little applause.

More than 100 people had signed up with his breakaway group and several hundred more

could follow suit, he said. Fiszbach has the declared support of Lech Walesa. He won the Solidarity chairman's trust when, as Gdansk party chief in 1980-81, he helped negotiate the accords which led to the free trade union's creation in 1980.

But he denied he was servile to Solidarity and said: "I have my principles and I will not change

Fiszbach, deputy speaker in the Seim (parliament), could bold a trump card because many of the 168 PUWP parliamentary deputies are likely to side with him rather than be associated with a neo-PUWP that has no chance of winning elections.

Foreign Trade Minister Marcin Swiecicki, one of four Communists in the Solidarity-led govern-ment, walked out of the congress with the rebels Saturday night and declared himself a non-party He objected to the decision not

to dissolve the PUWP immediately which party leaders said was to allow it to pass on its property to the new party before disbanding. The fate of the PUWP's property empire - valued by the party at more than \$70 million -

has sparked a major controversy. Right-wing parliamentary de-puties failed last week to push through a bill confiscating

At least

10 killed

in Kosovo

Borg in court

STOCKHOLM (AP) - Ex-tennis star Bjorn Borg appeared in court in his second legal battle in two weeks, launching a libel action arising from allegations that he abused drugs. A preliminary bearing involved Borg's suing the Swedish magazine "Z" for \$600,000 for quoting his ex-girlfor friend, Jannike Bjorling, as saying he used cocame. The magazine's lawyer, Peter Danowsky, told the district court that "Z" had heard from other sources that Borg used cocaine before speaking to Bjorling. Borg repeated the demai that he used any form of drugs. "Gossip and lies always have several sources," said Borg's attorney Henning Sjostrom Last week the five-time Wimbledon champion began his defence in an \$32-million lawsuit by a former friend and business partner, Lars Skarke, stemming from the collapse of Borg's fashion business.

Singer robbed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Singerchoreographer Paula Abdul was collecting trophies at the American Music Awards show while burglars were helping themselves to her valuables at home. Police said the popular entertainer discovered the robbery when she returned to her Studio City apartment after the awards show, where she was named top female pop-rock vocalist and favourite dance artist. "But there was no sign of forced entry and there was no ransacking, said police spokesman Michael Ranshaw. 'Mostly jewelry was taken." A preliminary estimate of her loss was placed at \$3,400, he said. Studio City is northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

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'Simple Man'

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) - Entertainer Charlie Daniels says his song "Simple Man." which suggests lynching drug dealers and using child abusers for alligator bait, isn't a reflection of his convictions. "Obviously, I'm being facetions with the song," Daniels said in a recent interview at his ranch near Nash- 28 max ville. "I certainly don't think we think should string anybody up from a tree or leave people out in the swamp." The man who used to sing about being "stoned in the morning" and "drunk in the afternoon" said the songs does reflect a change in his attitudes. "The way I put it is, people tell me, well, you used to be that way,' and I say, "yeah, you used to wear diapers, but you don't any more'," Daniels said. "I don't use drugs in any capacity," Daniels said. "I don't even like to

Spielberg makes movie on himself

"Close Encounters," World War II prison camps in "Empire of the Sun" and comic book adventure with "Indiana Jones." What's next? A movie about himself, in a script written by childhood chum and sibling Anne Spielberg. "Annie just wrote a small, wonderful story about the two of us and my mother," he said in an interview with People's magazine. "We're shooting the whole thing in Cincinnati, where it takes place," It's budgeted for only \$5 there was no (big budget) value in my childhood, none whatsover," he said. "It's basically based on experiences we had, friends of ours. It's more a comedy than an intimate portrait of our growing

PEC, Yugoslavia (R) — Police shot dead at least 10 ethnic Albanians Saturday in riots in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, eyewitnesses said Sunday. At Orahovac, 300 kilometres south of Belgrade, witnesses said four men were killed by

police fire as ethnic Albania monstrated for free elections, the resignation of local leaders and the release of poli-Villagers said at least two other men were killed nearby

and witnesses said three were shot dead in Diakovica and one in Pec, about 70 kilometres north of the regional capital of Pristing. Tanjug news agency put the death toll at five Saturday.

saying police returned fire after demonstrators shot at them through thick fog in Orahovac and Pec.

But ethnic Albanians in villages around Orahovac said that security forces opened fire without warning at protesters chanting: "Democracy, demo-

The guabattles were the worst violence to hit the strifetorn province since 28 people died last year when the Albamians rioted against curbs on their self-rule by Serbia, Yugodavia's biggest republic. The body of Nahsim Elshand, 28, who had been shot three

times lay covered by a white sheet as his wife, nursing their three-month-old baby, stood weeping alongside.
Villagers said police also kil-

led Hazar Hoti, 24, Hilmi Krasnici, a father of five, and 23-year-old Agron Teta, who was due to return to his work in Switzerland Sunday after a holiday visit to his family. The demonstrators are de-

manding the resignation of loc-al leaders, free elections and the release of political pris-They also want an end to

emergency measures imposed on the area after last year's unrest. Most of the measures were eased in June, leaving only a ban on political protests in force. Keseve, an antenemous pre-

vince of Serbia, has for decades been plagued by tensions be-tween its 1.7 million mostly Muslim ethnic Albanians and 200,006 Christian Serbs and Montenegrins. Over 40,900 Serbs and Mon-

tenegrins have fled the province in the past 10 years, saying the Albaniaus were tersaying the Alba rorising them orising them into leaving.

Serbian and Kosovo leaders

blame the unrest on separatists who want the province to be absorbed by neighbouring

Savimbi rejects one-party

conditions in Angola," he said in a television interview Saturday after arriving in Portugal for his first visit in 15 years.

"Who today in the world would accept a one-party system?"
Savimbi dismissed the peace

Jose Eduardo dos Santos in a New Year's speech as sophistry which did not advance the faltering peace process. He was particularly scornful of

dos Santos's suggestion that indeone-party rule of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

by one political party, that does not represent anything," he said with a laugh. "That is not democracy. I cannot accept that.

the Total Independence of Angoia), which has fought the MPLA since independence from Portugal in 1975, is demanding a Westem-style, multi-party system. The issue is at the heart of the

impasse in peace efforts led by Zaire's President Mobutu Sese

Savimbi, 55, appealed to Por-

Dos Santos, in a similar interview three weeks ago, ruled out the prospect of fighting elections against UNITA. He argued that a one-party system was more appropriate for an African country in Angola's stage of develop-

European storm turns political in Britain

LONDON (AP) — The cleanup from a devastating storm that killed 95 people in Europe has barely begun, but weather forecasting has already become a political issue in Britain.

Opposition politicians accuse the government of failing to give enough publicity to forecasts of Thursday's storm, which caused 46 deaths and an estimated \$1.6 billion damage in Britain.

Official reports said another 19 people died in Holland, 10 in Belgium, eight in France, seven in West Germany, four in De-nmark and one in East Germany. The storm, with winds up to

170 kilometres per hour, knocked out power and communications in large areas of Britain and the continent, severely disrupted transportation and uprooted millions of trees. "If we see the kind of hurricane

warnings that occur off the coast of the United States, the way that people are alerted, the way that dangerous structures are shored up, the way that people are warned in terms of transport or getting people off early, we can see a very big difference indeed," David Blunkett, a lawmaker from the opposition Labour Party, said in radio interview.

On Friday night, a group of Labour Party parliamentarians

submitted a motion in the House of Commons condemning the government's response to the

since 1947, denies the charge,

saying the unrest is due to Delhi's

refusal to hold a referendum on

flew out of Srinagar Sunday.

Seven foreign correspondents

Most telephone connections

were severed to the hotel where

Indian and foreign journalists

have been staying, and staffers at

the central telegraph office said

they had been ordered not to

Maulvi Mohammad Farooq, a

top Muslim cleric as spiritual

leader at Srinagar's leading mos-

que, appealed to the United Na-

He issued a statement Sunday

tions to search for a solution.

claiming civic autthorities had

army, frustrating the people by

curfew restrictions and massacre

of innocent people... night raids,

large-scale arrests, curbing the

The crackdown is the first ma-

ior crisis besetting the eight-

week-old government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

attacks by the separatists on gov-ernment patrols and buildings

and the kidnapping in Srinagar of

Home Minister Mufti Moham-

mad Sayeed's youngest daughter.

dent, was freed unharmed when

the government released five

jailed members of the Jammu-

Rubaiya Saeed, a medical stu-

It followd the escalation of

freedom of the press.'

"handed over the city to the

transmit news dispatches.

Kashmir's future.

When a storm of that magnitude threatens all or major parts of the country, the government has a duty to ensure that full and frequent warnings are carried on TV and radio. It is deplorable that the government completely failed to do this," the motion

> British TV seldom devotes more than a minute to a climate that generally drones along between warm and cool, and usually

> Roger Hunt of the meteorological office said the storm was accurately forecast, but the problem was getting people to pay attention. "We would like to get to the

position where at least the public didn't travel as much as they might otherwise have done if we issue warning to the effect that we expect driving conditions to be extremely hazardous," said

That, he said, may take "a good few years of education." Speaking in the House of Commons Friday, Local Government Minister David Hunt insisted that the government responded "swiftly and immediately."

"I understand all affected police forces issues, through the media, warnings about the dangers of travel," he said.
The storm moved across the

Baltic Friday and into the Soviet republics of Lithuania and Latvia, where it tapered off. Forecasters said another severe

storm was expected to hit Ireland and Britain Monday, but winds were not expected to exceed 100 kilometres per hour. As the cleanup continued

Saturday, television said 200,000 customers were still without electricity. The forestry commission estimated that three million trees were down.

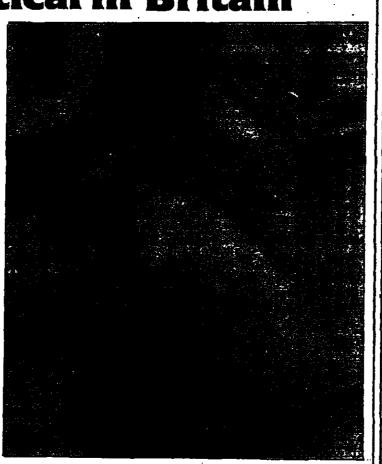
French coast guard aircraft resumed a search off the Brittany coast for the five crew members of the trawler La Fayette, which sent a distress signal Thursday and has not been seen since then. Belgian insurance companies

estimated Saturday that damage from the storm will exceed \$19 million in their country.

Insurers in Denmark estimated

that damage there would total \$19.2 million. East Germany's one fatality

was in the southern city of Karl-Marx-Stadt, where a man was fatally injured when his motor



More than 50,000 people died massacring a Muslim family,

at the height of the separatist war some of whose members he sus-

isn the 1970s. A shaky truce has pected of involvement in the Au-

scooter hit a tree uprooted by the Two young women hold on to a railing in gale force winds in London

Mysterious light lights up eastern U.S. sky

By Jerry Estill
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of people in the eastern United States reported seeing a strange blueish-green light in the night sky, and some experts said they could have been viewing an unusually large meteorite.

"We are quite confident it was not a manmade object re-entering," said Dick Adam, spokesman at the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "We have not idea what it was."

Sightings were reported from the northeastern U.S. state of New York to the mid-Atlantic state of Virginia. Adam confirmed that the air force was getting calls from all of those

ing with any of the information of the objects we are tracking in said Adam. "We are. tracking approximately 6,800 objects. Our mission is to keep track of what's in space. Whatever it was, it wasn't one of the objects

we're tracking." Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporiting Centre in Seattle, a private group, also reported receiving dozens of calls.

"Based on descriptions that have been given, I'd say we're dealing with a very large solid, a very large meteor," said Gribble. "Descriptions run from a blue-

green to a bright green coming down in an angular descent leaving a short tail behind it," he said. He said everyone who had telephoned the centre described the object "as coming down and hit-

Among the people who reported seeing the object was David Arnold, an area air traffic control supervisor at Dulles airport, outside Washington, who reported the sighting at 7:10 p.m. Saturday (0100 GMT Sunday).

"We don't know exactly what it was, a meteor or a satellite," said Arnold, who has been an air

"We've seen things like this before, but much higher. This was quite brilliant. It appeared to have dissipated completely." But not all witnesses saw the object change colour and appear A television reporter in Oak Hill, West Virginia, went to the home of one of the first witnesses nearly three hours after the initial sigthing and reported the light was still hovering in the sky.

said what she saw was "absolutely not" a meteorite. "I've seen meteorites before

and this doesn't resemble the type of meteorite I've seen," she told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from the home of Elizabeth Gray and her son, Chris, in Stanaford, West

Virginia.
"What we are seeing is a very bright bluish white object that

see its progress." Chris Gray, 13, was carrying firewood to the house when he saw the object.

"It was a dramatic thing to see," said Guthrie. "I almost drove off the road." He said the object appeared to be "three-orfour times treetop level" and the AP. "It is very slow. You about the size of a grapefruit with have to keep your eye fixed to an "incandescent bright light."

take an aspirin."

NEW YORK (AP) — Steven Spielberg has done big-budget films about aliens in "E.T." and million, peanuts compared to his usual productions. "I realised when Annie wrote the script that

Globai weather (major world cities)

AMSTERDAM ... BUENOS AIRES CARO 08
CHICAGO 02
COPENHAGEN 03
FRANKFURT 04 LONDON LOS ANGELES MOSCOW....

SYDNEY

proposal government.

LISBON (R) — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi says it would be tantamount to suicide for his UNITA movement to accept a one-party state as demanded by the country's Marxist

"It's out of date, even for the

proposals presented by President

pendent associations could exer-cise political freedoms under the Associations to be controlled

You don't ask a man to commit suicide to gain peace."
UNITA (National Union for

tugal to join in the peace efforts, something it has been reluctant to do. But he denied suggestions that he had lost faith in Mobutu's

ting the ground in their area, which is very common in something like this."

traffic controller for 25 years. "It lasted 25 to 30 seconds and went from brilliant white to an orange as it broke up.

Kitty Harrison, assignment edi-tor for WOAY-TV in Oak Hill,

appears to be moving downward toward the horizon in an erratic spiraling motion," Harrison told the AP. "It is very slow. You something stationary in order to

"I saw the sky light up and then I didn't pay no attention to it until my brother said he saw the same thing," he sasid. "I was looking in the binoculars and I saw this purplish football with rings around it and it was going around in circles and stuff."

Among the witnesses in the Washington area was Andrew Guthrie, a news editor at the Voice of America since 1983.

The latest wave of riots be gast Wednesday when police battled 40,000 demonstrators in Pristina, 228 kilometres south of Beigrade, with teargas, clubs and water cannon.